BLM LIBRARY
88005456

BLM Colorado Visual Resource Inventory

San Juan Resource Area

QH
76.5
.C6
B555
1979

WIRTH ASSOCIATES, INC.
Denver, Colorado

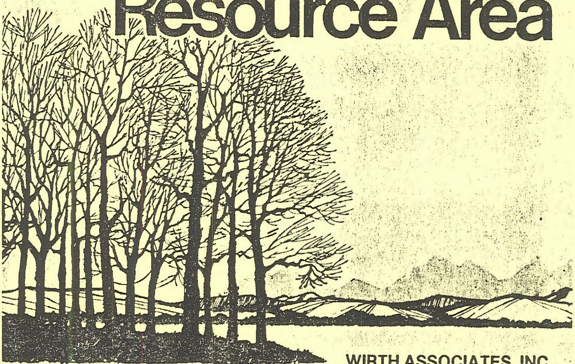
13073280

ID 88005456

QH
76.5
.C6
B555
1979

BLM Colorado Visual Resource Inventory

San Juan Resource Area



WIRTH ASSOCIATES, INC.
Denver, Colorado

Bureau of Land Management
Library
Bldg. 50, Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225

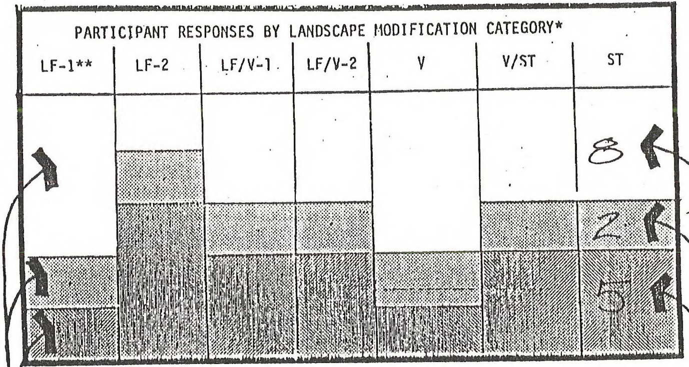
VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT ____________________

Rating Units	Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit:	
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	

LANDSCAPE VALUES

HIGH	P	
	HP	
MED.	MP	
LOW	LP	
	R	



Final Rating: ____________________

size of gray-tone boxes indicate the expected relationship of High, moderate, and low responses based upon the relative intensity of visual change typical of each type of modification.

Numbers within the gray-tone boxes indicate the number of High, moderate, and low responses given by workshop participants

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

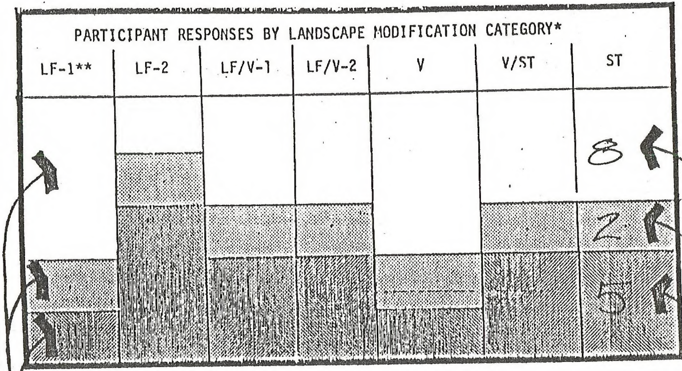
PLANNING UNIT ______________

Rating Units	Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit:	
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	

LANDSCAPE VALUES

HIGH	P	
HIGH	HP	
MED.	MP	
LOW	LP	
LOW	R	

Final Rating: ______________



Size of gray-tone boxes indicate the expected relationship of High, moderate, and low responses based upon the relative intensity of visual change typical of each type of modification.

Numbers within the gray-tone boxes indicate the number of High, moderate, and low responses given by workshop participants.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▨ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

TABLE OF CONTENTS
BLM VISUAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
SAN JUAN AND UNCOMPAHGRE RESOURCE AREAS

INTRODUCTION 1

METHODOLOGY 2

Overview 2

Visual Sensitivity 2

CRITERIA 5
USE VOLUME 5
USER ATTITUDES 6
FINAL SENSITIVITY 11

Distance Zones 12

DOLORES PLANNING UNIT

Visual Sensitivity - Use Volume (Dolores & Lone Cone)

DATA SUMMARY TABLE D-1

Visual Sensitivity - User Attitudes (Dolores & Lone Cone) D-2

OVERVIEW
DATA SUMMARY FORMS
SPECIFIC ISSUE NARRATIVES

Final Visual Sensitivity Levels (Dolores & Lone Cone) D-8

OVERVIEW

Distance Zones D-9

LONE CONE PLANNING UNIT

Visual Sensitivity - Use Volume (included in Dolores section) LC-1

DATA SUMMARY TABLE

Visual Sensitivity - User Attitudes (included in Dolores section) LC-2

Distance Zones (included in Dolores section)

LIST OF TABLES

	TABLE NO.	PAGE NO.
USE VOLUME DATA SUMMARY (DOLORES-LONE CONE)	1	D-1
INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED AND/OR ATTENDING THE DOLORES-LONE CONE WORKSHOPS	2	D-4
SUMMARY RESULTS OF THE SAN JUAN AND UNCOMPAHGRE RESOURCE AREAS VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOPS	3	D-7

LIST OF FIGURES

	FIGURE NO.	FOLLOWS PAGE NO.
VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP LETTER	1	8
VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA SHEET	2	follows above
VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP INSTRUCTION SHEET	3	follows above
VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP: DATA ANALYSIS AND SUMMARY	4	9
DOLORES AND LONE CONE PLANNING UNITS		
Visual Sensitivity - Use Volume	4a	
Visual Sensitivity - Attitudes	4b	
Visual Sensitivity - Final	4c	
Distance Zones	4d	

VISUAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
SAN JUAN AND UNCOMPAHGRE RESOURCE AREAS
DOLORES AND LONE CONE PLANNING UNITS

INTRODUCTION

This report constitutes a draft Visual Resource Inventory of two Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Planning Units within the San Juan and Uncompahgre Resource Areas (RAs), Colorado. The inventory has been conducted for all of the Dolores and Lone Cone Planning Units, which in total encompass 1,002,400 acres. This study has been conducted in compliance with the BLM Manual Section 8411 - Upland Visual Resource Inventory and Evaluation, and includes an inventory of Visual Sensitivity and Distance Zones. An inventory of scenic quality has been completed for these planning units by the BLM.

The entire inventory is comprised of the following components:

MAPS:

1. Use Volume
2. User Attitudes
3. Final Visual Sensitivity
4. Distance Zones

RATING FORMS:

1. Visual Sensitivity Workshop Summary and Analysis Forms

A Visual Sensitivity Workshop was held in Nucla on March 9 to establish User Sensitivity to Visual Change within Scenic Quality Rating Units for each Planning Unit.

From these points (or travel routes) a "seen area analysis" (see Visual Sensitivity - Use Volume narrative) is conducted. All lands that can be seen from that point or travel corridor out to a distance of 3-5 miles are labeled as Foreground/Middleground. All lands that can be seen from that point or corridor between 3-5 miles and 15 miles are labeled as Background. All lands that are beyond 15 miles from any KOP or are unseen from any KOP are labeled as Seldom Seen. Where overlaps of these zones occur (from 2 or more KOPs) the closer zone is designated.

For this study use volume information was taken from various sources, as indicated in the visual sensitivity - use volume narrative. A manual seen area analysis was conducted from the moderate and high volume points/corridors in the office from topographic and raised relief maps. Appropriate distance zone designations were then made. This preliminary distance zone map was then taken to the field by the scenic quality inventory team for verification. Revisions were made accordingly.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY - USE VOLUME

TABLE 1

USE VOLUME DATA SUMMARY
(San Juan and Uncompahgre Resource Areas)

KEY OBSERVATION POINT	LOCATION	VOLUME
State Rte. 62	--	High
State Rte. 90	--	High
State Rte. 97	--	High
State Rte. 141	--	High
State Rte. 145	--	High
Norwood-Dolores Road	#145 at Norwood South	Moderate
Disappointment Valley Rd.	#141 to Norwood-Dolores Rd.	Moderate
Basin Road	#141 at Basin to Norwood-Dolores Rd.	Moderate
Sanborn Park Rd.	#145 north to Sanborn Park	Moderate
Mountain View Road	Nucla North	Moderate
Dolores River	--	High

In all, 27 forms were turned in over a period of approximately 6 weeks. Of these, 4 had given the same rating for all activities in all rating units. This was judged by the Area Manager and Wirth Associates to be unresponsive and of little value in helping him to understand land use concerns in any geographical context. Twenty-three forms were then used in the analysis.

Table 2 indicates those individuals invited, attending and/or participating in the workshop. Of those individuals submitting forms that were used in the analysis 12 represented mining interests, 2 were from local utilities, 4 from agriculture, 1 conservation representative, and 4 from agencies.

A summary of the workshop ratings are indicated in Table 3 . The trend in the results strongly echo the view expressed in the meeting--that there is an appreciation and inherent concern for the visual quality of the landscape (as evidenced in ratings for Desired Management Class), however there was a skeptcism that by indicating a High or Moderate adverse reaction that BLM would further restrict those activities (as evidenced in the Low ratings for user reaction to landscape modification).

After reviewing the results with the Area Manager it was decided to test this theory and seek additional supportive data. A letter (Figure 1) was prepared indicating a summary of the results, our interpretation of the results and the desire to obtain any additional input that participants may have. However, after some 6 weeks no additional input had been received.

Another meeting was held with Mr. Don Lotvedt, Area Manager, Mr. John Sterzer, District Landscape Architect, and Mr. Ron Doering, Realty Specialist and VRM program leader in the San Juan RA which shares administrative responsibility for portions of the planning area.

At this time the decision was made to resolve conflicts in the results on the assumption that the participant responses to Desired Management Class most represented their values for visual resources.

During this meeting it was decided also to subdivide two of the original 26 rating units into 3 units each. One was unit #16, the Dolores River which was divided into units #16, 16a and 16b. These changes were made based on pending legal protective designations which reflect local changes in the river's character and use.

Also divided was unit #26, Ridges and Rims. This became unit #26 ridges, unit #26a, the more dramatic and natural valley rims and unit #26b, the less dramatic and more visually impacted valley rims.

Of the resulting total of 30 rating units, 5 rated High, 16 rated Moderate and 9 rated Low after tabulation and analysis. The actual percent of land area in each category roughly approximates this ratio with the low category being somewhat larger and the Moderate category being somewhat less.

High ratings were given to units #14, the Upper San Miguel River; #16, Dolores River, #16a Dolores River; #23 McKenna Peak; and #26a Rims (natural and more dramatic). Three are river valleys, one is an area of highly scenic badland peaks, and the other is an area of high prominant valley rims bordering Paradox Valley.

TABLE 3

SUMMARY RESULTS OF THE SAN MIGUEL RESOURCE AREA VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOPS

Unit No.	Unit Name	Final Ratings	Desired Mgmt. Class	LF-1*	LF-2*	LF/V-1*	LF/V-2*	V*	V/ST*	ST*
1	Wooded Mtn. Slopes	M	M	L	L	M	H	M/L	M/L	L
2	Mesas-Upland Veg.	M	M	L	L	M/L	M/H	L	L	L
3	Flats/Reservoirs	M	M	L	L	M/L	M	L	M/L	M/L
4	Upper Disappoint. Cr.	M	M	L	L	L	M	M/L	L	L
5	N. & S. Mountains	M	M	L	L	M	H	M	M/L	M
6	Plateau Creek	M	M	L	L	L	M	M/L	L	L
7	Mesa-Pinyon-Juniper	M	M/L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
8	Mtn. Slopes-Pinyon/Juniper	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
9	Broad Canyon	M	M	L	L	L	L	M/L	L	L
10	Narurita Ridge	M	M/L	L	L	L	L	M/L	L	L
11	Mailbox Park	M	M	L	L	L	L	M/L	L	L
12	Norwood/Egnar	L	M/L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
13	First Park	L	M/L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
14	Upper San Miguel R.	H	M	M/L	L	M	H	M	M	M
15	Lower San Miguel R.	M	M	L	L	M	M	L	M	L
16	Dolores River	H	M	L	L	M/L	M	L	M/L	L
16a	Dolores River	M	M	L	L	M/L	M	L	M/L	L
16b	Dolores River	H	M	L	L	M/L	M	L	M/L	L
17	Dry Creek	M	M/L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
18	Dry Creek Basin	L	M/L	L	L	L	M	L	L	L
19	Gypsum Valleys	L	L	L	L	L	M	L	L	L
20	Middle Disappoint. Valley	L	L	L	L	L	M	L	L	L
21	Lower Disappoint. Valley	L	L	L	L	L	M	L	L	L
22	Paradox Valley	L	M/L	L	L	L	M	L	L	L
23	McKenna Peak	H	M	L	L	L	M	L	L	L
24	Mesa - arid	L	L	L	L	L	M	L	L	L
25	Long Park	M	M/L	L	L	L	M	L	L	L
26	Ridges & Rims	L	M/L	L	L	L	M	L	L	L
26a	Ridges & Rims	H	M/L	L	L	L	M	L	L	L
26b	Ridges & Rims	M	M/L	L	L	L	M	L	L	L

LF-1	Landform 1
LF-2	Landform 2
LF/V	Landform/Vegetation-1
LF-V	Landform/Vegetation-2
V	Vegetation
V/ST	Vegetation/Structures
ST	Structures

VISUAL SENSITIVITY - USER ATTITUDES

A visual sensitivity workshop was held in Nucla in the REA building at 9:30 a.m. on March 9 for the San Juan and Uncompaghre Resource Areas.

The workshop was well attended with some 51 participants present (primarily independent miners). The group was highly vocal and highly critical of the Government's attempts to obtain information on visual resources and suspicious of its real purpose and the use that would be made of it. Most of the discussion centered around big government and its interference in their livelihood. Specifically, federal mine safety regulations had recently been passed requiring equipment that these miners said was prohibitively expensive for independent operators.

Although, clearly out of the realm of visual resource management, the miners had come to speak their peace and despite the best efforts of four BLM personnel and two Wirth Associates personnel to keep the discussion relevant to the topic, big government was the focus of their concerns. As a result, the workshop presentation which typically takes 45 minutes, took 3-1/2 hours.

At the end of this time one common theme emerged regarding visual resources and was reiterated many times by many individuals, which was that the participants had an appreciation and concern for the quality of the landscape but were afraid that by indicating a Moderate or High negative reaction to any type of visual change, that BLM would use that as a lever to further restrict their livelihood by adding more restrictions or regulations.

At the end of the presentation most participants elected to take their forms home and send them in later although about 10 forms were turned in at that time.

TABLE OF CONTENTS
BLM VISUAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
SAN JUAN RESOURCE AREA

INTRODUCTION 1

METHODOLOGY 4

Overview 4

Scenic Quality 6

OVERVIEW 6
SCENIC QUALITY RATING UNIT CRITERIA 7
SCENIC QUALITY RATING UNIT CLASSIFICATION 9
CULTURAL MODIFICATION CRITERIA 12
SCENIC QUALITY RATING CRITERIA 15

Visual Sensitivity 16

CRITERIA 16
USE VOLUME 16
USER ATTITUDES 17
FINAL SENSITIVITY 23

Distance Zones 24

CRITERIA 24

CHROMO PLANNING UNIT

General Setting C-1

Scenic Quality Rating Unit General Landscape Types C-4

Scenic Quality Rating Summary C-5

Scenic Quality Field Inventory Follows C-5

Cultural Modification Inventory Follows above

Visual Sensitivity - Use Volume C-6

DATA SUMMARY TABLE C-6

TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONT'D)

Visual Sensitivity - User Attitudes C-7
- OVERVIEW C-7
- DATA SUMMARY FORMS Follows C-10
- SPECIFIC ISSUE NARRATIVES Follows above

Final Visual Sensitivity Levels C-11
- OVERVIEW C-11

Distance Zones C-11
- OVERVIEW C-11

DURANGO PLANNING UNIT

General Setting D-1

Scenic Quality Rating Unit General Landscape Types D-4

Scenic Quality Rating Summary D-5
- A.C.E.C. AREAS D-6

Scenic Quality Field Inventory Follows D-6

Cultural Modification Inventory Follows above

Visual Sensitivity - Use Volume D-7
- DATA SUMMARY TABLE D-7

Visual Sensitivity - User Attitudes D-8
- OVERVIEW D-8
- DATA SUMMARY FORMS Follows D-11
- SPECIFIC ISSUE NARRATIVES Follows above

Final Visual Sensitivity Levels D-12
- OVERVIEW D-12

Distance Zones D-12
- OVERVIEW D-12

b

TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONT'D)

SACRED MOUNTAIN PLANNING UNIT

GENERAL SETTING SM-1

SCENIC QUALITY RATING UNIT GENERAL LANDSCAPE TYPES SM-4

SCENIC QUALITY RATING SUMMARY SM-5

- A.C.E.C. AREAS SM-6

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY Follows SM-6

CULTURAL MODIFICATION INVENTORY Follows above

VISUAL SENSITIVITY - USE VOLUME SM-7

- DATA SUMMARY TABLE SM-7

VISUAL SENSITIVITY - USER ATTITUDES SM-8

- OVERVIEW SM-8
- DATA SUMMARY FORMS Follows SM-12
- SPECIFIC ISSUE NARRATIVES Follows above

FINAL VISUAL SENSITIVITY LEVELS SM-13

- OVERVIEW SM-13

DISTANCE ZONES SM-13

- OVERVIEW SM-13

C

LIST OF FIGURES

	FIGURE NO.	FOLLOWS PAGE NO.
BLM SCENIC QUALITY CRITERIA	1	15
SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP RATING FORM	2	19
SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP INSTRUCTION SHEET	3	Follows above
SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP: DATA ANALYSIS AND SUMMARY	4	21
CHROMO PLANNING UNIT	5	-
Photo Index	5a	-
Scenic Quality	5b	-
Visual Sensitivity - Use Volume	5c	-
Visual Sensitivity - Attitudes	5d	-
Visual Sensitivity - Final	5e	-
Distance Zones	5f	-
DURANGO PLANNING UNIT	6	-
Photo Index	6a	-
Scenic Quality	6b	-
Visual Sensitivity - Use Volume	6c	-
Visual Sensitivity - Attitudes	6d	-
Visual Sensitivity - Final	6e	-
Distance Zones	6f	-
SACRED MOUNTAIN PLANNING UNIT	7	-
Photo Index	7a	-
Scenic Quality	7b	-
Visual Sensitivity - Use Volume	7c	-
Visual Sensitivity - Attitudes	7d	-
Visual Sensitivity - Final	7e	-
Distance Zones	7f	-

d

LIST OF TABLES

	TABLE No.	PAGE No.
SCENIC QUALITY RATING UNIT GENERAL LANDSCAPE TYPES AND SUMMARY- CHROMO	1	C-4
SCENIC QUALITY RATING SUMMARY- CHROMO	2	C-5
USE VOLUME DATA SUMMARY-CHROMO	3	C-6
INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED AND/OR ATTENDING THE CHROMO/ DURANGO WORKSHOP	4	C-9
SCENIC QUALITY RATING UNIT GENERAL LANDSCAPE TYPES AND SUMMARY- DURANGO	5	D-4
SCENIC QUALITY RATING SUMMARY- DURANGO	6	D-5
AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN- DURANGO	7	D-6
USE VOLUME DATA SUMMARY- DURANGO	8	D-7
INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED AND/OR ATTENDING THE CHROMO/ DURANGO WORKSHOP	9	D-10
SCENIC QUALITY RATING UNIT GENERAL LANDSCAPE TYPES AND SUMMARY- SACRED MOUNTAIN	10	SM-4
SCENIC QUALITY RATING SUMMARY- SACRED MOUNTAIN	11	SM-5
AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN- SACRED MOUNTAIN	12	SM-6
USE VOLUME DATA SUMMARY- SACRED MOUNTAIN	13	SM-7
INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED AND/OR ATTENDING THE SACRED MOUNTAIN WORKSHOP	14	SM-11

e

INTRODUCTION

VISUAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
SAN JUAN RESOURCE AREA
CHROMO, DURANGO, AND SACRED MOUNTAIN PLANNING UNITS

INTRODUCTION

This report constitutes a draft Visual Resource Inventory of ~~two~~ three Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Planning Units within the San Juan Resource Area (RA), Colorado. The inventory has been conducted for all of the Chromo, Durango, and Sacred Mountain Planning Units, which in total encompass 1,002,300 acres. This study has been conducted in compliance with the BLM Manual Section 8411 - Upland Visual Resource Inventory and Evaluation, and includes an inventory of Scenic Quality, Visual Sensitivity and Distance Zones.

The entire inventory is comprised of the following components:

Maps:

1. Photo Index
2. Scenic Quality Rating Units
   Cultural Modifications
   Scenic Quality Ratings
3. Use Volume
4. User Attitude
5. Visual Sensitivity Final
6. Distance Zones

Rating Forms:

1. Scenic Quality Rating Unit Field Forms
2. Cultural Modifications

3. Visual Sensitivity Workshops Summary

4. Specific Issues Narratives

Photographs:

1. 35 MM color slides

2. 33 MM black and white photos and negatives

All photographs are provided in the accompanying volume.

This inventory was conducted between December 12, 1978 and January 13, 1979, and included 48.5 person days of field study. Visual Sensitivity workshops were held in Cortez on January 25 and in Durango on January 26 to establish User Sensitivity to Visual Change within Scenic Quality Rating Units for each Planning Unit.

STUDY TEAM

The study was conducted by an interdisciplinary team composed of the following individuals:

PROJECT DIRECTOR
Tim Tetherow - Landscape Architect

PROJECT MANAGER - SCENIC QUALITY
Ken Magdziuk - Landscape Architect

SCENIC QUALITY STUDY TEAM
Ed Beveridge - Landscape Architect
Mark Figley - Landscape Architect
Paul Goldberg - Environmental Planner
Carla Johnson - Geologist
Debbie Severe - Biologist

PROJECT MANAGER - VISUAL SENSITIVITY/DISTANCE ZONES
Craig Taggart - Landscape Architect

VISUAL SENSITIVITY STUDY TEAM
Terry Smythe - Landscape Architect
Paul Goldberg - Environmental Planner

DISTANCE ZONES STUDY TEAM
Terry Smythe - Landscape Architect

All participants are employees of Wirth Associates, Inc. with the exception of Carla Johnson and Debbie Severe, who are employed by Dames & Moore (subcontractor on this study).

METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

OVERVIEW

The basic sequential steps involved in the inventory of Scenic Quality, Visual Sensitivity and Distance Zones are outlined as follows:

SCENIC QUALITY

1. Determine and map Scenic Quality Rating Units (SQRU)
2. Rate and document scenic quality levels
3. Rate and document man-made (cultural) landscape modifications

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

1. Determine important viewer locations (Key Observer Points - KOPs)
2. Determine the land that can be seen from the KOP (seen area analysis)
3. Map use volume levels for KOPs within the seen area
4. Determine user attitudes toward man-made landscape modifications
5. Determine final sensitivity levels based on a combination of use volume and user attitudes

DISTANCE ZONES

1. Determine KOPs (as above)
2. Determine seen area from KOPs
3. Map distance zones within the seen area

A two-phase approach to the inventory of visual resources was developed and used in this study. The first phase was a combination of office and field work and involved preliminary mapping and reconnaissance. The second phase was done in the field and involved confirmation of preliminary mapping and actual field inventory or rating.

Phase one involved the following basic steps:

A. Preliminary determination of Scenic Quality Rating Units (SQRU) in the office from topographic maps and aerial photographs.

B. Determination of KOPs in the office from BLM and other agency data.

C. Preliminary determination of the seen area from KOPs.

D. Mapping use volume levels of KOPs.

E. Preliminary mapping of Distance Zones from KOPs.

Phase two involved the following basic steps:

A. Field verification of SQRU boundaries and scenic quality rating.

B. Field identification and rating of cultural modifications.

C. Field verification of seen area and distance zones.

D. Overflight and ground reconnaissance by the Project Director and Project Manager to review SQRU boundaries and obtain an overview of that planning unit's relative visual characteristics prior to workshops.

E. Workshop session(s) with selected public and agency representatives to determine user attitudes toward visual change in the landscape.

F. Determination of final sensitivity levels based on user volume and user attitudes.

This two phase approach was devised and utilized for efficiency in completing the inventory portion within the short time alloted for each planning unit. (Specifically, field team members had a preliminary indication of rating units and zones to react to, rather than having to start from a blank base map in the field). It also built in a series of checks and reviews by both management and field team personnel since all areas were reviewed on three occasions: preliminary office evaluation, field inventory and field reconnaissance.

SCENIC QUALITY

OVERVIEW

The analysis of a landscape's "scenic quality" requires a number of methodological and procedural decisions. Early in these decisions is establishing the rating unit and thereby defining the scale of analysis and the physical size of each area (or unit) to be field checked. These decisions are subjective but not arbitrary and during field inspection are refined as needed.

After each rating unit has been field checked, several categories or "general types" of rating units emerge within each planning unit. The general types provide an indication of the diversity of the landscape within each planning unit and serve as a guide to that unit's landscape character.

Man-made alterations to the natural landscape are either "cultural intrusions" or "modifications." These alterations become visual attractions or detract from the landscape and consist of a wide range of items and scales.

The scenic quality rating based on subjective data becomes a relative indicator of the landscape's visual quality. The data used was formulated by the BLM and outlined in their manual (8411) on the subject.

These elements: SQRU Criteria; SQRU Classification; Cultural Modification Criteria; and Scenic Quality Rating Criteria make up the methodological and procedural components of Scenic Quality. Detailed sections of each element follow.

SCENIC QUALITY RATING UNIT CRITERIA

The Scenic Quality Rating Units (SQRU) were defined by a three-step process which entailed: 1) predelineation of units, 2) field refinement, and (3) aerial verification.

Within each of the steps the rating units were further refined to reflect their physical boundaries from the following criteria:

1. Predelineation of Units - The data collection areas were first defined by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Areas and Planning Units. From these planning boundaries initial rating units were drawn using guidelines supplied in the BLM Manual 8411, "Upland Visual Resource Inventory and Evaluation", and a series of maps including topographic maps (generally 7-1/2 minute and 15 minute USGS quadrangles) relief maps, and aerial photographic quadrangles. The key element in establishing rating units was discerning areas of physiographic integrity; where physical size became unimportant and gave way to defining areas of similar scenic quality. These definitions required careful analysis of scale and visibility, a difficult requirement to meet from map study alone, and lead to both our second and third steps.

2. Field Refinement - Using topographic field maps with the preliminary rating units drawn on them, the five member interdisciplinary teams, divided into two groups, drove through each Planning Unit first to become familiar with the general area, then specifically into each rating unit for the purpose of rating its scenic quality. During

these trips the units were discussed by the team and considerations of scale and visibility were decided using input from the points of observation in the field. A number of SQRUs could not be entered due to winter conditions and inaccessible roads, especially in the Sacred Mountain Planning Unit. In these unusual circumstances the team attempted to gain visual access from adjacent areas and relief on aerial observations, aerial photographs and topographic maps to define the rating unit.

3. Aerial Verification and Final Delineation - Three members of the field team, including one of the Project Managers, conducted a low altitude flight over the Sacred Mountain Planning Unit to observe and rate those areas that could not be seen from the ground. Before the workshops were conducted, the Project Director and Project Manager also conducted an aerial flight over the entire Resource Area to become more familiar with the physical and physiographic nature of each rating unit. Further refinements were noted if necessary.

SCENIC QUALITY RATING UNIT CLASSIFICATION

The individual Scenic Quality Rating Units in the San Juan Resource Area each fall into one of ten general landscape types.

These general landscape types have been defined physiographically based upon field observations and information available on contour maps and aerial photographs. The ten landscape types include mountains, ridges and narrow valleys, rolling hills, canyons, mesas, broad valleys, parks, basins, river valleys and reservoirs.

Mountainous areas in the region tend to be characterized by moderate to steeply sloping projections of land which are typically very rugged and have extensive areas of rock outcroppings. High elevation ridges, broken talus slopes, and smoothly undulating slopes are also common to the mountainous terrain. North-facing slopes tend to be densely forested with mixed alpine conifers and scattered groves of aspen, while southfacing slopes generally support a somewhat sparse cover of pinyon, juniper, and low shrubs.

Lands of intermediate elevation, lying above the valley floor and below the mountains, are considered to be areas of either ridges and narrow valleys or rolling hills.

Ridge and narrow valley landscapes are characterized by steeply sloping land which crests in sharply angular ridge lines and drops into steep-walled, narrow, v-shaped valleys. Large areas of rock outcroppings are present along many of the slopes.

Landscapes which are gentler and more softly rounded than the rugged ridge and narrow valley landscapes are classified as rolling hills. These areas are characterized by rounded, undulating uplands often flanked by long and linear elevated benches or terraces. Many small drainages and swales define the individual hillsides. The vegetative cover in these hilly areas ranges from extensive grasslands to low scrubby stands of pinyon and juniper.

Several canyons are present within the resource area. They are characterized by nearly vertical, precipitous walls which often exhibit distinctively colored bands of sedimentary rock. Flowing or intermittently flowing streams generally bisect the canyon floors and are bounded by linear bands of riparian vegetation. Further away from the drainage courses and along the sideslopes, the vegetation in the canyon is composed primarily of coniferous species which vary in density with the steepness of the canyon walls.

Broad extensive areas of relatively flat land which are raised sharply above adjacent lands are classified as mesas. Various species of short grasses and extensive areas of sagebrush are common to these landscapes.

Broad Valleys are defined as wide, open expanses of relatively flat to gently sloping land which is bounded by ranges of hills or mountains. These landscapes are oriented around the river or stream which has formed the valley and are commonly covered by thick deposits of sediments which originated in the surrounding uplands or mountains. Large communities of grasses and sagebrush are typical of these landscapes.

Parks are quite similar to broad valleys in respect to their physiography, which is wide, open, and flat; the only difference being that parks are not structurally dependent upon a river or stream as valleys are. Parks are generally ringed by mountains and support vegetative communities dominated by grasses and low, brushy shrubs.

Basins are low, depressional areas which are gently sloping and rounded in form. Often basins include bodies of standing water such as lakes or small ponds.

In the dry landscape of southwestern Colorado, a prominent reservoir, river or stream is an important visual and recreational resource. It is felt that such a resource can be managed more efficiently as a unit unto itself rather than as a component of a more extensive landscape type such as a broad valley or an area of rolling hills. For this reason, land associated with a significant water feature was singled out and classified as either a river valley or a reservoir.

There are a number of units that could be considered typical of more than one category. An example would be a rating unit composed of one or two mountains and many rolling hills; this unit could be considered as either mountains or rolling hills. It is our purpose to generally classify the rating units according to their most characteristic physiographic feature. Therefore, an area of many hills and one or two mountains would be typed as rolling hills.

The classification of scenic quality rating units by general landscape types is provided to give an indication of the diversity of the landscape within the planning unit.

CULTURAL MODIFICATION CRITERIA

Using the criteria prescribed in Section 24 of the BLM's Manual 8411 - "Upland Visual Resource Inventory and Evaluation," the field teams conducted an inventory of significant cultural modifications found within the Scenic Quality Rating Units. These modifications were then evaluated in regard to their overall effect on the visual quality of the landscape.

Cultural modifications can take the form of either visual intrusions or visual improvements. For purposes of this study the cultural modifications which were documented were those which were judged by the members of the field team to be visual intrusions, or adverse impacts upon the area's inherent scenic quality.

The specific cultural modifications which were singled out for documentation were those which strongly attracted attention or tended to become a dominant feature in the landscape. These conditions were defined in terms of the severity with which the particular modification contrasted with the natural components of the surrounding landscape. Changes in landform, water, or vegetation and the addition of structures were examined to determine the extent to which they contrasted with the basic form, line, color, and texture characteristic of the rating unit. If the overall contrast was considered to be significant, the modification was photographed, plotted on a map, and rated on the Cultural Modification Field Form.

The question of whether or not to document a cultural modification as a visual intrusion was also influenced by proximity to developed areas and the modifications scale, or size, within the SQRU as a whole.

When a particular land use or cultural modification (which would ordinarily be classified as a visual intrusion on the basis of its visual contrast) was located in an area strongly dominated by the influence of development, it was not documented as a visual intrusion and was considered to be part of the developed area. Trailer parks located on the outskirts of an urban area, for example, were not singled out though trailer parks in an area relatively free of development were.

In areas which were free of the overbearing visual influence of an urban area, scale was the factor which was used to determine which cultural modifications would be documented. Generally, large scale features were singled out while small-scale features were not. By way of example, fences were not documented though transmission lines were. Billboards weren't considered though junk yards were. The decision was highly subjective but not arbitrary.

General Types

As mentioned, the field teams were oriented toward documenting cultural modifications which created strong contrasts with the natural elements of the landscape. A general listing of the cultural modifications noted within the various planning units would include the following:

1) Dumps or trash areas
2) Buildings and grounds of unusual size or use such as fish hatcheries, Lumber mills and storage yards.
3) Large gravel and/or borrow pits.
4) Transmission towers and cuts through wooded slopes for tower construction and maintenance roads.

5) Large slope cuts for roads and/or mining operations.

6) Tunnels, generally mining and/or railroad.

7) Substantial earth dams and adjacent cut slopes.

SCENIC QUALITY RATING CRITERIA

The scenic quality rating is a relative indication of the visual quality of the landscape based on a systematic approach and analysis of the landscape elements. Considered are the physical landscape components of landform, vegetation, water and color; the relative scarcity or uniqueness of that particular landscape type within the region; the extent to which it has been altered by man and the degree to which lands in adjacent rating units enhance its overall visual quality. Each rating criteria receives a score according to established methodology as shown in Figure 1 taken from the BLM 8411 manual. The combined numerical total then determines one of three levels (A, B & C) of scenic quality.

Ratings were done within the context of the Rocky Mountain and Colorado Plateau physiographic provinces.

SCENIC QUALITY
INVENTORY AND EVALUATION CHART

key factors	rating criteria and score		
landform	High vertical relief as expressed in prominent cliffs, spires or massive rock outcrops, or severe surface variation or highly eroded formations including major badlands or dune systems; or detail features dominant and exceptionally striking and intriguing such as glaciers. 5	Steep canyons, mesas, buttes, cinder cones and drumlins; or interesting erosional patterns or variety in size and shape of landforms; or detail features present and interesting though not dominant or exceptional. 3	Low, rolling hills, foothills or flat valley bottoms. Interesting detail landscape features few or lacking. 1
vegetation	A variety of vegetative types as expressed in interesting forms, textures, and patterns. 5	Some variety of vegetation, but only one or two major types. 3	Little or no variety or contrast in vegetation. 1
water	Clear and clean appearing, still, cascading white water, any of which are a dominant factor in the landscape. 5	Flowing, or still, but not dominant in the landscape. 3	Absent, or present, but not noticeable. 0
color	Rich color combinations, variety or vivid color; or pleasing contrasts in the soil, rock, vegetation, water or snow fields. 5	Some intensity or variety in colors and contrast of the soil, rock and vegetation, but not a dominant scenic element. 3	Subtle color variations, contrast or interest; generally mute tones. 1
influence of adjacent scenery	Adjacent scenery greatly enhances visual quality. 5	Adjacent scenery moderately enhances overall visual quality. 3	Adjacent scenery has little or no influence on overall visual quality. 0
scarcity	One of a kind; or unusually memorable, or very rare within region. Consistent chance for exceptional wildlife or wildflower viewing, etc. 6	Distinctive, though somewhat similar to others within the region. 2	Interesting within its setting, but fairly common within the region. 1
cultural modifications	Free from aesthetically undesirable or discordant sights and influences; or modifications add favorably to visual variety. 2	Scenic quality is somewhat depreciated by inharmonious intrusions, but not so extensive that the scenic qualities are entirely negated or modifications add little or no visual variety to the area. 0	Modifications are so extensive that scenic qualities are for the most part nullified or substantially reduced. -4

SCENIC QUALITY

A= 19-33
B= 12-18
C= 0-11

FIGURE 1

Scenic Quality - Explanation of Rating Criteria

landform

Topography becomes more interesting as it gets steeper or more massive, or more severely or universally sculptured. Outstanding landforms may be monumental, as the Grand Canyon, the Sawtooth Mountain Range in Idaho, the Wrangell Mountain Range in Alaska, or they may be exceedingly artistic and subtle as certain badlands, pinnacles, arches and other extraordinary formations.

vegetation

Give primary consideration to the variety of patterns, forms, and textures created by plant life. Consider short-lived displays when they are known to be recurring or spectacular. Consider also smaller scale vegetational features which add striking and intriguing detail elements to the landscape; e.g., gnarled or windbeaten trees, joshua trees, etc.

water

That ingredient which adds movement or serenity to a scene. The degree to which water dominates the scene is the primary consideration in selecting the rating score.

color

Consider the overall color(s) of the basic components of the landscape (i.e., soil, rock, vegetation, etc.) as they appear during seasons or periods of high use. Key factors to use when in rating "color" are variety, contrast and harmony.

adjacent scenery

Degree to which scenery outside the scenery unit being rated enhances the overall impression of the scenery within the rating unit. The distance which adjacent scenery will influence scenery within the rating unit will normally range from 0-5 miles, depending upon verticality of topography, vegetative cover and other such factors. This factor is generally applied to units which would normally rate very low in score, but the influence of the adjacent unit would enhance the visual quality and raise the score.

scarcity

This factor provides an opportunity to give added importance to one or all of the scenic features that appear to be relatively unique or rare within one physiographic region. There may also be cases where a separate evaluation of each of the key factors does not give a true picture of the overall scenic quality of an area. Often it is a number of not so spectacular elements in the proper combination that produces the most pleasing and memorable scenery - the scarcity factor can be used to recognize this type of area and give it the added emphasis it needs.

cultural modifications

Consider the impact of change on the visual quality of the characteristic landscape. Cultural modifications in the landform/water, vegetation and addition of structures should be considered and may detract from the scenery in the form of a negative intrusion or actually complement or improve the scenery quality of a unit. Be careful not to confuse interest with scenery quality. Rate accordingly.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

CRITERIA

The criteria and procedure used for determining visual sensitivity are those set forth in BLM's 8411 manual. Basically, this involves a two-part inventory and evaluation process consisting of: 1) determination of user volume and, 2) user attitudes toward change in the landscape. The results of these two independent analyses are combined according to established procedures and result in a determination of final visual sensitivity levels.

USE VOLUME

The collection of use volume data is to determine the number of people viewing the landscape at various locations. The greater the number of viewers in any given area, the greater the "exposure" it receives and the greater its sensitivity is said to be. Actual use volume is categorized into one of three levels (H, M, or L) according to the following criteria (BLM Manual 8411 31A1a):

CRITERIA	HIGH	H	MEDIUM	M	LOW	L
(1) Use volume (total) use, no distinction between types) cars and trains	Segments of travel routes, use sites or population centers which receive 200,000 or more visits/yr. or more than 200 vehicles/day (ADT year round), or comparable degree of use on a seasonal basis.		Segments of travel routes, use sites or population centers which receive 20,000 to 200,000 visits/year or 20 to 200 vehicles per day (ADT year round), or a comparable degree of use on a seasonal basis.		Travel route segments with less than 20,000 visits/yr. or less than 20 vehicles/day (ADT year round).	
(2) Use volume - trails, rivers, water bodies, trams	20,000 or more visits/yr.		2000 - 20,000 visits/yr.		less than 2000 visits/yr.	

Travel routes or use areas of High or Moderate volume are considered to be Key Observation Points (KOPs). From these KOPs, the landscape can be seen (referred to as the "seen area") is mapped out to a maximum distance of 15 miles. The level of volume of that KOP (either High or Moderate) is then designated for the entire seen area around that KOP. Where an area can be seen from both a high volume KOP and a moderate volume KOP, the high designation is given.

Use data for this study was obtained through the BLM Area Offices, from the State Highway Department, county road departments, State Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. Though somewhat variable in age, the data used, in all cases, was the most current available. Where notable data gaps occurred, the best estimate of the agency representative was used considering current use patterns and known use levels of adjacent roads/areas.

Seen areas were manually derived in the office through the use of topographic and raised relief maps. The results were reviewed and refined during the course of the study by the Project Manager and other members of the study team.

USER ATTITUDES

Data on user attitudes toward change is collected in order to determine the extent of public concern for various lands within the planning unit and specifically, their attitudes toward visual modification of the landscape. It is the only point in the inventory process where public input is considered.

The procedure used in this analysis was a somewhat modified version of the "Extensive" (low level) procedure set forth in BLM Manual 8411. Basically, it involves a workshop format with selected representatives of various agencies, private interests and public interest groups. They are asked to respond to a variety of possible landscape modifications within specific landscape units which are based on the Scenic Quality Rating Units (SQRU). These responses are then evaluated by qualitative means to determine a high, moderate or low level of sensitivity for each rating area.

With this general direction from the BLM 8411 manual it was first necessary to determine the specific data needs and a format for obtaining this information. In order to determine user response to change it was decided to obtain a comprehensive list of the generic types of change possible on BLM lands. These were then grouped into seven major over categories based on similarities in their visual effect on the landscape, e.g. landform, vegetation and/or structure modification. Only those specific generic types within each category that are appropriate to a given Resource Area, are presented to workshop participants. In some cases an entire over-category was deleted if inappropriate or unlikely in that Resource Area.

As a context within which to judge these responses it was decided that participants should, at the outset, indicate the relative sensitivity or value they placed on the visual resource of each rating area. For this purpose, participants were asked to indicate the level of protection that should be given to the visual resource. One of five levels were presented as options: Preservation, High Protection, Moderate Protection, Low Protection or Rehabilitation. These were intended to generally correspond with the five

VRM Management Classes. A workshop rating form was then developed around these data needs on a rating unit basis (see Figure 2). In addition, an accompanying instruction sheet was developed that also included a space for participants to indicate any specific issues, projects or areas of concern visually (see Figure 3). These responses were primarily for the benefit of the Area Manager and not factored into final ratings.

To determine a list of workshop participants Wirth Associates first met with BLM representatives to develop a generic list of types of interest or agency input desired. The following general types of input were decided upon: federal, state and local (county and city) agency representation (including administrative, design and planning representatives); conservation organizations; cattlemen, mining and utility representation; off-road vehicle, guide and ski type recreation representation; and Chamber of Commerce and "average citizen" representation. From this generic list, the BLM District and/or Area Office selected specific representatives for each category. Both a preliminary letter of notification and a follow-up letter were composed by Wirth Associates and sent from the Area Office to each selected representative (example following page 22). This was followed by a personal phone reminder by an Area Office BLM representative prior to the meeting.

The Project Director and Project Manager made a flight over the study area two days prior to the workshop to review scenic quality rating unit boundaries and ratings, to become personally familiar with the study area prior to the workshop, and to determine whether or not certain rating units should be further subdivided or combined for purposes of the workshop. Final visual sensitivity workshop rating unit maps and forms were then prepared on this basis.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA SHEET

PARTICIPANT ____________________

REPRESENTING ____________________

DATE ____________________

____________________ RESOURCE AREA

____________________ PLANNING UNIT

RATING AREA		DESIRED VISUAL	USER REACTION TO VISUAL CHANGE BY:						
Name	No.	MGMT. CLASS	Landform-1	Landform-2	Landf./Veg.	Vegetation	Veg./Struct.-1	Veg./Struct.-2	Structures

P - Preservation
HP-High Protection
MP-Moderate Protection
LP-Low Protection
R - Rehabilitation

H - Visual change by this type of activity would cause a strong negative reaction.

M - Visual change by this type of activity would cause a moderate negative reaction.

L - Visual change by this type of activity would cause a low adverse reaction.

CATEGORIES OF VISUAL CHANGE

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill
Gravel Operations

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing, chaining, herbiciding, etc.)

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/Repeators
Substations

Vegetation/Structures-2

Ski Area Development/Resort

Structures

Residential

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA SHEET

EXPLANATION AND CONTINUATION

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

In filling out the workshop form, please respond from the point of view of the public sector or agency you represent rather than from your personal point of view. This will enable us to better analyze the broad spectrum of public attitudes.

Relationship to the Area:

From the list supplied, indicate the type of use each area is best suited to from your group or agency's point of view. Where code letters include more than one specific type of use, specify which type is most appropriate (e.g. "RE - coal mining").

Value Placed on Scenic Quality:

From your group or agency's point of view, indicate the degree of value placed on scenic quality in each area in terms of H, M or L value.

Desired Visual Management Class:

This is to be a further indication of the value of scenic quality to the group or agency in terms of the level of management you feel should be exercised for scenic values within the area. "Preservation" would restrict all activities which would noticeably alter the landscape. "Rehabilitation" is an indication that from your group or agency's point of view, the area is already visually degraded and needs some level of corrective measures.

User Reaction to Visual Change:

The categories of visual change listed below are intended to represent generic types of management actions which would lead to similar kinds of visual change. They are not intended to represent specific management proposals.

Categories of visual change include the following generic types:

Landform-1

Resource Extraction (mining)
Landfill

Landform/Vegetation

Roads
Pipelines
ORV Use
Rail Spurs

Landform-2

Dams/water impoundments

Vegetation

Timber Harvest
Land Treatment (grazing,
  chaining, herbiciding, etc.)

FIGURE 3

Vegetation/Structures-1

Power Lines
Tramways
Reflectors/repeators
Substations

Structures

Residential

Vegetation/Structures-2

Ski Area Development/Resort

SPECIFIC ISSUES, PROJECTS OR LANDS OF CONCERN TO YOUR GROUP OR AGENCY:

In the following space please indicate any issues or concerns your agency or group has about visual resource management in this BLM Resource Area. Specific projects, lands or issues can be addressed. Indicate on the base maps provided, the location of specific lands you are concerned about. Use a code letter/word or other identifiable designation referenced in your narrative.

Participant__________________________

Date______________________________

The workshop format followed the following basic outline:

A. Introduction (BLM Area Manager)
   - Relationship of this study to the overall Area planning effort
B. Study overview and background (Wirth Associates)
C. VRM program overview (Wirth Associates)
D. Slide overview of rating areas within the Resource Area (Wirth Associates)
E. Slide examples of various possible generic landscape modifications (Wirth Associates)
F. Participant ratings on a rating unit by rating unit basis (facilitated by Wirth Associates)
G. Participant narratives on specific issues or projects of concern (facilitated by Wirth Associates).

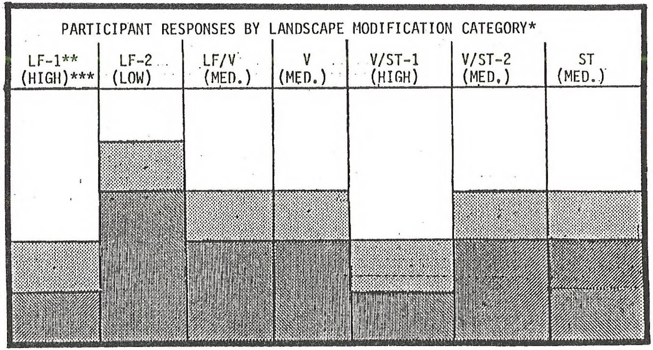
Following the workshop, an initial analysis of the results was made by Wirth Associates which led to a preliminary overall user attitude rating of Low, Moderate or High for each rating unit. Initially, each form was reviewed to determine whether or not the results would be utilized. Forms were considered invalid if it were apparent that the participant was confused about the information requested or demonstrated clearcut inconsistency of thought through his/her ratings.

Where ratings were ambiguous but a reasonable assumption could be made as to the intended response changes were made and documented on the rating form. Partially completed forms were utilized if responses appeared consistent and an understanding of the desired information was apparent by the responses given.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT____________________

Rating Units		Desired Mgmt. Class	
Workshop Rating Unit:		P	
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	LANDSCAPE VALUES HIGH	HP	
	MED.	MP	
	LOW	LP	
		R	



Final Rating: ____________________

Rationale:____

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▦ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

FIGURE 4

Valid forms were qualitatively evaluated and tallied by the same review team according to a rating form specially designed for this purpose (see Figure 4). According to this form, responses to Desired Management Class are totaled and compared to totals for responses to various categories of landscape change. Where there was a difference for a rating area between the overall level of protection designated through the Desired Management Class and the overall level of sensitivity toward change, a preliminary H/M or M/L designation was given.

Once the preliminary analysis was complete, a follow-up meeting was held with the Area Manager and appropriate members of his staff to review the results. An explanation of the preliminary analysis procedure was presented and reviewed. Following this, each summary and analysis form was reviewed with the Area Office personnel. Borderline H/M and M/L ratings were resolved at this time based on intensity of responses, consistency of thought, overall trends, specific participant responses, amount of BLM land in the rating area, user types and trends in the area and specific issues surrounding the area. In addition, if the Area Manager and staff felt that, based on the above considerations, participant responses clearly did not reflect the true level of sensitivity for a given area, they raised or lowered the rating. In all cases, a written rationale was prepared in the space provided on each summary and analysis form (Figure 4) which documented the basis for the final rating.

The tally sheets were designed for easy visualization of trends. The following assumptions were made in its design:

- Management Class ratings can be grouped into levels of High, Medium or Low value (an exception is the Rehabilitation category which is sometimes given because of a high concern - when this occurs, ratings to various landscape modifications would expectedly be higher than where little concern exists).

- Landscape modification categories have different intensities and are identified as High, Medium and Low.
- Gray levels represent the general intensity of ratings expected based on the following premise: it is expected that if an impact of moderate intensity is proposed for an area about which the participant feels a moderate value, his/her expected response would be of a moderate adverse nature. Also, it is expected that the same impact would be rated as high by those who felt the landscape to be of high value and rated low by those who rated the landscape low. If true, it would follow that a low intensity impact would be rated high only if the respondent felt the area should be preserved and likewise a high intensity impact would expectedly result in a high adverse rating on both high and moderate value lands.

IN REPLY RE

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Resource Area Headquarters
Federal Building
701 Camino del Rio
Durango, Colorado 81301

December 29, 1978

SUBJECT: BLM Colorado Visual Resource Inventory Workshop,
Cortez, Colorado, January 25, 1979

Dear Sir:

As a part of an ongoing effort to prepare a resource inventory of public lands, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is in the process of directing an inventory of the visual resources for approximately 8.5 million acres within Colorado. Portions of all four BLM districts in Colorado will be involved in this inventory -- Canon City, Grand Junction, Montrose and Craig. The inventory will cover all lands within certain Planning Units (PU) in the following BLM Resource Areas (RA):

CANON CITY DISTRICT
  Royal Gorge RA
  Northeast RA

MONTROSE DISTRICT
  San Juan RA
    Sacred Mountain PU
  Uncompahgre Basin RA

GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT
  Glenwood Springs RA

CRAIG DISTRICT
  Little Snake River RA
  Kremmling RA

The attached map shows the general locations of these BLM Districts and Resource Areas.

Wirth Associates, Inc., a landscape architecture and planning firm, has been retained by the BLM to conduct this visual resource inventory in Colorado. A series of workshops with representatives of federal, state and local agencies, and special interest groups will be held within each Resource Area as a part of the effort. Public concerns for changes to the visual quality within each Resource Area will be the focus of these meetings.

A workshop will be held in the San Juan Resource Area (that portion highlighted on the attached map) at Cortez on Thursday, January 25, at 10:00 a.m. Please plan to participate at this meeting and share with

IN REPLY REFER

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Resource Area Headquarters
Federal Building
701 Camino del Rio
Durango, Colorado 81301

January 15, 1979

SUBJECT: Visual Resource Management Workshop

Dear Sir:

This follow-up letter is to remind you of the workshop being held at Cortez, Empire Electric Dan Hunter Room, 801 N. Broadway, on January 25, 1979, at 10:00 a.m. as part of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) comprehensive planning effort. As indicated in the previous letter, the purpose of this workshop is to gain public input on questions of change in the visual quality of the landscape resulting from a variety of possible land management actions. The data obtained from this workshop is a key aspect in the overall Visual Resource Management (VRM) inventory and analysis process. As such, it plays an important role in the determination of final visual quality standards for the various BLM lands within the Resource Area. The scope of this workshop, however, is not limited to Bureau lands since BLM land management actions would visually affect adjacent lands. Rather, consideration will be given to all lands within the Resource Area regardless of ownership.

The workshop will be jointly facilitated by the BLM and Wirth Associates who have been contracted by the Bureau to conduct visual inventory and analysis studies on selected lands in Colorado. The format will be as follows:

INTRODUCTION

- Resource Area planning effort
- Purpose of the workshop

ORIENTATION

- VRM program overview - use of VRM data
- Slide overview of the Planning Unit

DATA INPUT

- Your desired visual standards for various lands within the Resource Area (e.g. preservation; high, moderate or low protection; or rehabilitation).

CONSERVE
AMERICA'S
ENERGY

Save Energy and You Serve America!

- Your reaction to visual change on various lands resulting from the following types of land management alterations:

Landform - 1

resource extraction (mining)
landfill

Landform - 2

dams/water impoundments

Landform/Vegetation

roads
pipelines
ORV use
rail spurs

Vegetation

timber harvest
land treatment (grazing, chaining, herbiciding, etc.)

Vegetation/Structures - 1

power lines
fences
tramways
reflectors/repeators
substations

Vegetation/Structures - 2

ski area development
second home residential

Structures

strip development
billboards
heavy trucking loadout
trailer court

(This portion will not be issue or project oriented but rather consider only generic landscape changes which may take place over the next few years).

- Your narrative discussion of specific land management issues or projects of concern to you.

Individual rating forms will be provided so that after discussion of topics or areas with others at your table you may make your response privately. In order to complete the presentation and record your input in the two hours alloted, however, it is essential that we adhere closely to the topics and format described above without discussion of your views on specific local issues or projects. We do desire this information, however, and the final phase of the program will be devoted to recording them.

As a selected spokesman for a particular user or interest group, your input to this workshop is key because of the public sector you represent. Without your presence, their important viewpoint may not be given adequate consideration. This personal, additional reminder is intended to represent an indication of the level of importance the Bureau places on the visual resource and its consideration in future land management planning and decision making. It is also intended to indicate the importance we put on your input in the final determination of VRM standards for Bureau lands within the San Juan Resource Area.

Sincerely yours,

Jerry D. Kendrick

Jerry D. Kendrick
Area Manager,
San Juan Resource Area

FINAL SENSITIVITY

The Final Sensitivity Rating is the result of the combination of use volume sensitivity and user attitudes sensitivity according to the following matrix taken from the BLM Manual (8411.31A4):

user attitude	quantity of use	
H	H	HIGH SENSITIVITY
H	M	
M	H	
H	L	
L	H	MEDIUM SENSITIVITY
M	M	
M	L	
L	M	LOW SENSITIVITY
L	L	

The process used is a mechanical one in which the two preliminary sensitivity maps are overlain and the final sensitivity rating for any given area is determined simply by the particular conditions of the two preliminary ratings. When very small islands of land resulted (less than 1/2 mile wide) that had a rating different from the adjacent land, a decision was made to give it the designation of the adjacent land with which it had the most similarity from a management standpoint.

DISTANCE ZONES

CRITERIA

Distance Zone classifications are used to indicate the relative detail that is perceived in natural and man-made features on the landscape. The closer an object is to the viewer the greater the detail in which it is perceived and the greater is its perceived scale in relation to the surrounding landscape. Therefore, a landscape modification near the viewer would have a greater negative visual effect than the same modification seen further away.

Distance Zone categories as defined in the BLM VRM system include the following: Foreground/Middleground - from viewer location to 3-5 miles; Background = from 3-5 miles to approximately 15 miles; and Seldom Seen = beyond the approximate 15 mile limit. The Seldom Seen designation is also applied to areas that because of topographic screening are unseen from any designated viewer location.

The criteria and procedure used for delineating distance zones are those set forth in BLM;s 8411 manual. This procedure first involves the determination of Key Observer Points (KOPs). These points are the same as those used for the visual sensitivity - use volume study (see use volume methodology narrative preceeding).

From these points (or travel routes) a "seen area analysis" (see visual sensitivity - use volume narrative) is conducted. All lands that can be seen from that point or travel corridor out to a distance of 3-5 miles are labeled as Foreground/Middleground. All lands that can be seen from that point or corridor between 3-5 miles and 15 miles are labeled as Background. All lands that are beyond 15 miles from any KOP or are unseen from any KOP are labeled as Seldom Seen. Where overlaps of these zones occur (from 2 or more KOPs) the closer zone is designated.

For this study use volume information was taken from various sources, as indicated in the visual sensitivity - use volume narrative. A manual seen area analysis was conducted from the moderate and high volume points/ corridors in the office from topographic and raised relief maps. Appropriate distance zone designations were then made. This preliminary distance zone map was then taken to the field by the scenic quality inventory team for verification. Revisions were made accordingly.

CHROMO P. U.

CHROMO PLANNING UNIT

GENERAL SETTING

The Chromo Planning Unit consists of two individual areas; Pagosa Springs and Chromo. Both areas fall on the border of two major physiographic units: the Southern Rocky Mountains to the north, northeast and east; and the Colorado Plateau Navajo Section (basically young plateaus of lower relief into which adjacent areas drain) facing the units on the south, southwest, and west. Both areas are influenced physically and visually by the proximity of these major landforms.

A. Chromo

Chromo, the smaller of the two units roughly 17 miles long and from 2-1/2 to 3-1/2 miles wide (31,360 square acres) contains more diverse physiography than Pagosa Springs. Starting at the southwest corner Archuleta Mesa at over 9200' towers over the adjacent narrow valley nearly 1900' lower. Nearly midway through the unit the valley turns up again to La Mesa del Medio, Chromo Mountain and Mesa Pedregosa, at elevations of 8600 feet. Here at the midway point the Navajo River has cut through the plateaus flowing southwest nearly 1500 feet below the rims. East of the slopes a narrow valley opens across the landscape and has been sparsely settled with the village of Chromo at 7286'. East of Chromo the land tilts up and northward in rolling hills leading to Navajo Peak (elevation 11,923') just outside of the unit.

Navajo Peak is only one of several peaks at or over 11,000 feet seen from the unit. This influence of adjacent scenery includes Banded Peak (12,720') and Chroma Peak (12,027') along side narrow valleys nearly 4000' lower in elevation.

One major water feature, Navajo River, flows diagonally southwest-northeast through the unit and contributes color, movement, and recreation to this area. In addition the river promotes riparian vegetation and visual contrast. Coyote Creek flows through the western valley of the unit in a deeply incised, meandering channel. Although somewhat interesting it is not dominant and cannot be compared to the river in visual importance.

Chromo is the only "urban" area noted on a map of this unit. Physically Chromo consists of three or four houses and/or businesses and cannot be considered "urban". This unit is sparsely settled by several residences of farmers and ranchers.

The Chromo Planning Unit borders New Mexico for most of its length and contains one major arterial, U.S. Route 84 (Colorado Route 17) which runs northwest-southeast through the village of Chromo and the narrowest section of the planning unit. State Highway 367 joins the western half of the unit to Route 84 and carries little more than local traffic.

B. Pagosa Springs

This unit is larger, approximately 30 miles long and from 3 to 9 miles wide (55,040 square acres) and considerably flatter than Chromo having a fairly consistent elevation of around 7000-8000 feet. Several points of higher elevation exist (approximately 8000 feet) but the change is subtle compared to Chromo. At the western edge the planning unit begins on the lower slopes of Devil Mountain and the steep slopes of Haystack Mountain (rising to 7948' or 1148' above the major east-west access) and continues in rolling hills until reaching Nutria. From Nutria to Pagosa Springs (the only urban area) the planning unit flattens into an area called Sunetha Flats. Running northeast-southwest through both the planning unit and Pagosa Springs, the San Juan River has carved a channel and created some change in elevation, though it is more valley like than canyon.

From the community of Pagosa Springs to the north, east and south the topography again becomes rolling hills and valleys. At approximately 7200', Pagosa Springs is within a few hundred feet of elevation for most of the planning unit.

Outside of the unit to the north and east, peaks of the San Juan Mountains stand thousands of feet above Pagosa Springs, as they do in Chromo, and elevations over 12,000' are common. On the west and south rolling terrain with lower mountains of 9000' are occasionally marked by deeply etched drainages.

In addition to the San Juan River, which is the major riparian influence, a number of small reservoirs (Echo Canyon, Stevens, Sullenburger and others) are either within or adjacent to the planning unit but play a small visual role. Stollsteimer Creek, McCabe Creek and Mill Creek are the larger of many drainages but again have small visual impact.

Pagosa Springs is the only urban area within the planning Unit and expands in a linear fashion east and west along U.S. Route 160. U.S. Route 84 junctions with route 160 east of Pagosa Springs and runs south through Chromo into New Mexico.

SQRU GENERAL LANDSCAPE TYPES & SUMMARY
PLANNING UNIT: CHROMO

GENERAL TYPE KEY

Mountains
Ridges and Narrow Valleys
Canyons
Parks
Mesas

Rolling Hills
Broad Valleys
River Valleys
Basins
Reservoirs

SQRU NO.	NAME	GENERAL TYPE
001	Navajo Peak	Rolling Hills
002	Navajo River	River Valley
003	La Mesa del Medio	Mesa
004	Navajo River Canyon	Narrow Canyon
005	Coyote Creek	Valley
006	Coyote Park	Rolling Hills & Park
007	Archuleta Mesa	Mesa
008	Mill Creek	Rolling Hills
009	San Juan River North	River Valley
009a	San Juan River South	River Valley
010	Valley North of Pagosa Springs	Broad Valley
011	McCabe Creek	Rolling Hills
011a	Stinking Springs	Rolling Hills
012	Echo Canyon Reservoir	Reservoir
013	Haystack Mountain	Mountains
014	Broken Off Point	Rolling Hills
014a	Stollsteimer Creek	River Valley
015	Sunetha Flats	Broad Valley
016	Martinez Canyon	Canyon

DISTRICT: MONTROSE

RESOURCE AREA: SAN JUAN

PLANNING UNIT: CHROMO

SQRU			RATING CRITERIA						TOTAL	
NO.	NAME	LF	V	W	C	AS	S	CM	NO.	SQR
001	Navajo Peak	3	3	1	3	3	1	2	16	B
002	Navajo River	1	4	4	3	3	2	1	19	A
003	La Mesa del Medio	2	3	1	3	3	1	2	15	B
004	Navajo River Canyon	3	4	5	4	1	2	2	21	A
005	Coyote Creek	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	11	C
006	Coyote Park	2	2	1	3	2	1	1	13	B
007	Archuleta Mesa	1	2	0	2	4	1	2	11	B
008	Mill Creek	2	3	2	3	3	1	1	15	B
009	San Juan north	2	4	5	3	3	4	-1	20	A
009a	San Juan south	2	4	5	3	3	4	1	22	A
010	Valley N. of Pagosa Sp.	1	2	1	2	3	1	1	11	C
011	McCabe Creek	2	3	2	3	3	1	1	15	B
011a	Stinking Springs	2	3	2	3	3	1	1	15	B
012	Echo Canyon Reservoir	1	2	5	3	3	4	2	20	A
013	Haystack Mountain	4	3	3	4	3	1	2	20	A
014	Broken Off Point	2	3	2	3	3	1	1	15	B
014a	Stollsteimer Creek	1	3	3	3	3	1	-1	13	B
015	Sunetha Flats	1	2	2	2	3	1	1	12	B
016	Martinez Canyon	3	2	3	4	0	1	2	15	B

District Montrose

Date 12/13/78

Planning Unit Chromo

Evaluator(s) KVM, MF, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 001 - Navajo Peak

Film: Roll # 1 Frame # 1,2

Time of Day 12:00

Weather clear

Landscape Character: Rolling Hills

General Narrative: A series of rolling hills (elevation 8000-8500') rise 400-900' above the access road in this unit. Surrounded by very high jagged mountains in the north and a small valley on the south, the hills contrast both adjacent landforms.

The Navajo River (SQRU 002) flows along the southern edge of the unit, paralleling the road, and supports a large variety of trees and vegetation.

Adjacent scenery is magnificent and frames the hills with a number of massive forms to include Navajo Peak (11,323') "V" Mountain (10,744'), La Mesa del Medio (7,865') and several sections of the Continental Divide.

These rolling hills, though interesting and natural, owe most of their high rating to su-rounding scenery and vegetation. Combined these effects make a visual setting and landscape of great interest.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	1
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3-surrounded by mtns.
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2-several forms

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 16 = ____ (A, B, or C)

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
001	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 12/13/78

Planning Unit Chromo

Evaluator(s) KVM, MF, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 002 - Navajo River

Film: Roll # 1 Frame # 3-6, 9,10,16,17,18

Time of Day 2:00 p.

Weather clear

Landscape Character: River Valley

General Narrative: The Navajo River Valley unit is a long narrow area of land oriented primarily east-west. This valley and the Navajo River constitute the southeastern border of the planning unit. Though relatively narrow (three quarters of a mile) it becomes a distinct unit due to contrasting landforms that surround this valley. From Highway 84, which passes through a small segment of the unit, and the valley, the San Juan Mountain Range is seen extending along the northern edge, while along the west and south ends La Mesa del Medio and its sharp base Rock Cliffs give a distinct visual terminus to the scene.

The Navajo River is the dominant visual attraction within this unit. A number of vegetative species including willow, cottonwoods and shrubs, and ponderosa pine follow the meandering stream coarse and valley floor dominated by grasslands.

The visual influence of the surrounding mountain ranges, mesas, ridges and steep valleys is spectacular. The total contrast of scale, of shapes and colors extends into this high valley in something of an "Alp-Like" setting, and is a dominant positive feature.

A few small ranches and residences are located within the valley but are not intrusive. A small power line, and one small dam are the remaining modifications, but again small scale.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4
3	Water	5	3	0	4
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	2
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 19 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Le

SQRU 002

Final R A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FOR

District Montrose

Date 12/13/78

Planning Unit Chromo

Evaluator(s) KVM, MF, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 003-La Mesa del Medio

Film: Roll # 1 Frame # 15,27

Time of Day 1:15 pm

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Mesa

General Narrative: La Mesa del Medio at 7865' is only 500' above the state road but those 500 feet are generally vertical. Across a narrow canyon (SQRU number 004) a similar formation reaches 8557' or nearly 1200 feet above the road. These hills (and mesa) contain several steeply incised drainageways which lead into the Navajo River.

No road access is available within this unit but from adjacent roads varying views can be seen.

Pascar Spring is located within one of the valleys and feeds into Coyote Creek. Due to the season the rating team could not reach it.

Views from these high elevations are panoramic and include distant peaks. not uncommon to the planning unit.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	1
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3-adjacent valley
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 15 = ____ (A, B, or C)

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33

Class B 12-18

Class C 11 or Less

SQRU 003

Final Rating B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date December 13, 1978

Planning Unit Chromo

Evaluator(s) CJ, MF, KVM

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 004-Navajo River Canyon

Film: Roll # 1

Frame # 16, 19-23

Time of Day 2:00 p.m.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Narrow Canyon

General Narrative: This area is a relatively short but steep walled narrow canyon. The Navajo River meanders through this canyon, and flows from one edge of the valley floor to the other. The steep side slopes are interesting due to the rock formations which appear like a series of stair steps to the top of the ridges. There are interesting geologic features that have been exposed by the road cuts which display three distinct separate sediment layers. The uppermost layer is composed of muds and littered with a moderate amount of rounded gravel and small boulders. The second formation is one foot thick and consists of stratified layers of fine pebbles and sands. The exposed portion of the third layer is composed of large rounded boulders, rocks, and pebbles in an unstratified unit of muds and clays.

Because of the river's influence the vegetation is diverse. Cottonwoods, willows and grasses occupy the valley floor, while the drier side slopes are covered by Ponderosa Pine, and Juniper. Wildlife appears to be abundant by the numerous tracks throughout the valley floor. A beaver was also sited feeding in the river. The area appears to be quite natural and though it is relatively short in duration, is quite interesting and is not interrupted by man's activities or land uses.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4
3	Water	5	3	0	5
4	Color	5	3	1	4
5	Influence	5	3	0	1
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	2
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
004	A

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 21 = A, B, or C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date December 13, 1978

Planning Unit Chromo

Evaluator(s) KVM, MF, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 005 - Coyote Creek

Film: Roll # 1 Frame # 24, 25, 26

Time of Day 2:30 p.m.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Valley

General Narrative: This is a fairly small valley located at 7000-7300 feet and is traversed by a small but deeply incised Coyote Creek. Rimed by La Mesa del Medio and its visually interesting rock outcrops to the east and a series of rolling hills to the west, this valley captures a number of visual attractions.

A few dwellings are located in the valley, some appear abandoned. Ranching seems to be its main function.

Ponderosa Pine line the ridges, occasional pine and/or fir is found in the valley itself.

Several views from and to adjacent hills and far distant peaks lend scale to the valley and some visual interest by way of contrasting forms.

Edith appears to be several residences on maps but is a collection of buildings around two residences.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2
3	Water	5	3	0	2
4	Color	5	3	1	2
5	Influence	5	3	0	2
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 11 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33
Class B 12-18
Class C 11 or Less

SQRU 005

Final Ratin C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 12/13/78

Planning Unit Chromo

Evaluator(s) KVM, MF, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 006 - Coyote Park

Film: Roll # 1 Frame # 11,12,13,14,15, 26-34

Time of Day 3:00 p.m.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Rolling Hills & Park

General Narrative: Coyote Park, a large almost level area, is located partially within the northeast corner of this unit of rolling hills and adds contrast to this somewhat regular formation. Large sections of steep walled ridges of La Mesa del Medio and Archuleta Mesa constitute the boundaries of this unit. The side wall of La Mesa del Medio has jagged yellow brown rock outcrops while the side slopes of Archuleta Mesa are more uniform with few rock outcrops.

Several forms of vegetation, generally pine, juniper and several shrubs crowd some areas of these slopes while remaining areas are sparsely vegetated.

The more gentle rolling hills are moderately to densely covered in ponderosa pines, scrub oak and grasslands that result in three basic vegetative forms.

A large part of this area is devoted to grazing with a few small ranches, widely scattered apart.

Distant views of high and scenic peaks add interest to this unit. A few deeply etched meandering creeks pick up a series of smaller drainageways between the hills.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2
3	Water	5	3	0	1
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	2
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 13 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
006	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date December 13, 1978

Planning Unit Chromo

Evaluator(s) KVM, MF, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 007 - Archuleta

Film: Roll # 1 Frame # 29, 33, 34

Time of Day 4:00 p.m.

Weather clear

Landscape Character: Mesa

General Narrative: The eastern quarter of the Archuleta Mesa makes up unit 007. Rising 9159 feet it stands 900 feet above the adjacent valley unit (005) and tumbles into a series of rolling hills (unit 006).

The mesa is rather steep on its southern part, while falling more gradually to the north. Moderately to heavily covered with Ponderosa Pine it lacks a variety of vegetation.

At its crest, reached by a dirt road, a "lookout" point and "arch" area are local features. Views of adjacent scenery are panoramic and "postcard" type views.

Largely natural this area is without water or variety, but it commands attention by its shape and for its views.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	2
5	Influence	5	3	0	2
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 11 = ____ (A, B, or C)

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU 007

Final Rating C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 12/13/78

Planning Unit Chromo

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 008-Mill Creek

Film: Roll # 2 Frame # 12-18, 22-27
3 7-9

Time of Day 10:00 a.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Rolling Hills

General Narrative: Large areas of low, gently rolling hills are the most characteristic and prominent landform in this unit although areas of nearly flat, gently sloping land are present as well. The form of the land in the unit is smooth and rounded and the hills rise between 100 and 500 feet above the adjacent valley floor.

Ponderosa pine is the dominant vegetative species in the unit, the more mature specimens rising to 70 or 75 feet in height. Small junipers are intermixed in the scattered cover of trees, and tufts of sage and grasses compose the ground cover. Willows and cottonwoods can be found along the many streams which drain the area.

The most outstanding visual feature in this landscape is the adjacent scenery. The peaks of the San Juan Mountains dominate the low hillsides and are spectacularly prominent throughout the area.

Ranches, residences, and power lines are scattered through the unit but do not significantly detract from the visual strength of the natural landscape.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2-rolling hills
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	2-not a dominant feature
4	Color	5	3	1	3-seasonal variation
5	Influence	5	3	0	3-San Juan Mtns.
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 15 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less
SQRU	Final Rati
008	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 12/13/78

Planning Unit Chromo

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 009-San Juan River North

Film: Roll # 2 Frame # 4-11

3 8, 9

Time of Day 3:00 p.m.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: River Valley

General Narrative: The San Juan River flows from north to south through this area of the Chromo Planning Unit. It has cut a wide river valley which is bounded by moderately steep rolling hills. Dense riparian vegetation including cottonwood, willow, and other deciduous shrubs inhabit the river banks and exhibit a seasonally varying display of color.

Views of the San Juan Mountains offer significant visual enhancement to the area.

Highway 160 bisects this rating unit, and runs parallel to the river. There is a considerable amount of development associated with the highway and its impact on the scenic quality of the unit is disruptive. The visual character of the structures contrasts strongly with the natural character of the land and is distracting. This is especially evident at the junction of highways 160 and 84 where the lumber mill is located.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4
3	Water	5	3	0	5-river
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3-San Juan Mountains
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	4
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	-1 development along river

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 20 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less
SQRU	Final Rat
009	A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 12/13/78

Planning Unit Chromo

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 009a - San Juan River So.

Film: Roll # 2 Frame # 28-31

Time of Day 1:00 p.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: River Valley

General Narrative: The San Juan River flows from north to south through this area of the Chromo Planning Unit. It has a river valley about 1/2 mile wide, enclosed by moderately steep rolling hills. Dense riparian vegetation including cottonwoods, willows, and other deciduous shrubs inhabit the river banks and exhibit a seasonally varying display of color. As a source of food, water and shelter, the river valley supports a wide community of wildlife, evidenced by large numbers of animal tracks. Views of the San Juan Mountains significantly enhance the visual elements of this area. The river valley is relatively free of cultural modification here except for a small power plant which constitutes a minor visual distraction.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2-river valley
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4-riparian
3	Water	5	3	0	5-river
4	Color	5	3	1	3-seasonal
5	Influence	5	3	0	3-San Juans
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	4
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1-minor

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 22 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33

Class B 12-18

Class C 11 or Les

SQRU 009a

Final Ra A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FOR

District Montrose

Date 12/13/78

Planning Unit Chromo

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 010-Valley north of Pagosa Springs

Film: Roll # 3 Frame # 1-4

Time of Day 11:00 a.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Broad Valley

General Narrative: The broad valleys common to this section of the Chromo planning unit are bounded by low, rolling hillsides and are characterized by smooth, flat to gently sloping land.

They are dominated by grasses and managed pasturelands with occurrences of widely scattered ponderosa pines and junipers.

The overall visual impression created by the valley is pastoral - long low wooden fences define the pasturelands and old, sturdy barns and residences dot the area. This pleasant atmosphere is strongly enhanced by a sweeping panorama of the snow-capped peaks of the San Juan Range.

A few small streams flow through the valleys and though their presence is not dominant the riparian vegetation associated with them adds interest and color to the landscape.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1-flat
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2-largely agricultural
3	Water	5	3	0	1-a few streams
4	Color	5	3	1	2-subtle
5	Influence	5	3	0	3-San Juans
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 11 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Les

SQRU	Final Rat
010	C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 12/13/78

Planning Unit Chromo

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 011-McCabe Creek

Film: Roll # 3 Frame # 5-6

Time of Day 2:00 p.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Rolling Hills

General Narrative: Please refer to SQRU 008 for a narrative description of this unit. The character of the land in each unit is similar.

In addition, McCabe Creek is the dominant water element in this area but its qualities are still similar to SQRU 008.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2-rolling hills
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	2-not dominant
4	Color	5	3	1	3-seasonal
5	Influence	5	3	0	3-San Juan Mtn.
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 15 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less
SQRU	Final Rat
011	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 12/13/78

Planning Unit Chromo

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 011a-Stinking Springs

Film: Roll # 3 Frame # 11-15, 18

Time of Day 11:00 a.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Rolling Hills

General Narrative: Please refer to SQRU 008 for a narrative description of this unit. The character of the land in each unit is similar.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	2
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 15 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Les
SQRU	Final Rat
011a	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FOR

District Montrose

Date 12/13/78

Planning Unit Chromo

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 012-Echo Canyon Reservoir

Film: Roll # 2 Frame # 19-21

Time of Day 12:00

Weather sunny

Landscape Character:

Reservoir

General Narrative: Echo Canyon Reservoir is found in an area of low rolling hills west of Highway 84. The presence of the reservoir adds to the scenic nature of this landscape as it is one of the few bodies of water besides the San Juan River in this planning unit. It serves as a recreation site for the area. Cattails line the waters edge while ponderosa pine cover the hills. Distant views of the San Juan Peaks add a spectacular element to the scenery.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1-low hills
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2-low diversity
3	Water	5	3	0	5-reservoir
4	Color	5	3	1	3-seasonal
5	Influence	5	3	0	3-San Juans
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	4-water body
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2-recreation

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 20 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU 012

Final Ratin A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Planning Unit Chromo

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 013-Haystack Mountain

Film: Roll # 3 Frame # 27, 28

Date 12/13/78

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Time of Day 4:45 p.

Weather clear

Landscape Character: Mountains

General Narrative: Haystack Mountain stands out as one of the more prominent landform features within this Chromo Planning Unit, rising over 1000 feet from Stollsteimer Creek, where it is most visible. There are, however, more interesting landforms nearby such as Castle Rock and the San Juan Mountains. Because the slopes of this peak are so steep, much of the mountain appears to have no significant vegetation, especially on the east slopes. Steep, vertical cliffs characterize the north slopes and dense conifer forests inhabit this side of the mountain. Devil Creek is a small drainage that cuts a path across this corner of the SQRU, adding an extra dimension to the variety of vegetation and color. As throughout the rest of the planning unit, the San Juan Mountains add significantly to the visual quality of this landscape. No apparent modifications detract from the scenery around Haystack Mountain.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	4-Haystack Mountain
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3-some diversity
3	Water	5	3	0	3-Devil Creek
4	Color	5	3	1	4-varied
5	Influence	5	3	0	3-San Juans
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1-common
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2-none

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 20 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33

Class B 12-18

Class C 11 or Les

SQRU	Final Rat
013	A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 12/13/78

Planning Unit Chromo

Evaluator(s) ER, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 014-Broken Off Point

Film: Roll # 3 Frame # 22,23,24,25

Time of Day 10:30 a.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character:

General Narrative:

Please refer to SQRU 008 for a narrative description of this unit. The character of the unit is similar.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	2
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 15 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33
Class B 12-18
Class C 11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rati
014	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 12-13-78

Planning Unit Chromo

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 014a-Stollsteimer Creek

Film: Roll # 3 Frame # 22, 26, 27, 28

Time of Day 3:45 p.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character:

River Valley

General Narrative: Stollsteimer Creek is a relatively flat River Valley surrounded by the rolling hills of SQRU 014. It is an attractive location where conifers, some aspen, and small willows covering the hills begin to drift into the valley bottom. Most of the land seems to be used for grazing but a series of tasteless real estate signs indicate the land is being subdivided for second home developments.

Typically the San Juan Mountains and such nearby features as Haystack Mountain and Broken Off Point add interest to the visual perception of this corridor.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1-flat
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3-some diversity
3	Water	5	3	0	3-Stollsteimer Creek
4	Color	5	3	1	3-some variation
5	Influence	5	3	0	3-San Juans
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1-common
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	-1 new development

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 13 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33

Class B 12-18

Class C 11 or Less

SQRU 014a

Final Rati B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 12/13/78

Planning Unit Chromo

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 015 - Sunetha Flats

Film: Roll # 2 Frame # 1, 2, 3
3 16, 17, 19

Time of Day 1:00 p.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Broad Valley

General Narrative: Sunetha Flats is part of an expansive Broad Valley located at the foot of the San Juan Mountains. Large ponderosa pines can be found standing alone or in scattered groups throughout the rating unit. Otherwise these flats are dominated by grasses and are probably used extensively for grazing. Several small reservoirs are located along the National Forest boundary and appear to serve as recreation areas. Wide panoramas of the San Juan Mountains offer spectacular scenery from Highway 160. Development is taking advantage of this area and future demands upon this landscape seem likely.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1-flat
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2-low diversity
3	Water	5	3	0	2-minor
4	Color	5	3	1	2-subtle
5	Influence	5	3	0	3-San Juans
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 12 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU 015

Final Rati B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Planning Unit Chromo

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 016-Martinez Canyon

Film: Roll # 3 Frame # 20-21

Landscape Character:

Date 12/13/78

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Time of Day 4:30 p.

Weather clear

Canyon

General Narrative: This SQRU is a small somewhat v-shaped canyon. Martinez Creek meanders along the canyon floor and supports a riparian association of willow and cottonwood. An extremely dense cover of oak brush, juniper, and ponderosa pine covers the sideslopes and adds a touch of color to the unit. Outcrops of blocky reddish tan sedimentary rock compliment the color of the vegetation and increase the visual interest of the area. The steeply rising walls of the canyon give the unit a sense of enclosure and block long range views of the surrounding scenery. No cultural modifications were apparent in the canyon.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3-steep walls, colorful outcrops
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2-dense
3	Water	5	3	0	3-Martinez Creek
4	Color	5	3	1	4
5	Influence	5	3	0	0-enclosed
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2-none

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 15 = A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less
SQRU	Final Rati
016	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

CHROMO

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification OSO Diversion Dam - Bureau of Reclamation - 001

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	0	2

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	1	L	M	H	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 1 Frame # 6

Time of day 12:30 Weather sunny

Evaluator MF, KVM, CJJ

Type
(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score
(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential
(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success
(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).

This Diversion Dam on the Navajo River, does not affect the scenic quality of the site due to its size and lack of structural intrusions.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

CHROMO

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Lumber Yard - 002

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	0	8

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	2	H	M	L	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 3 Frame # 8 & 9

Time of day 10:00 a Weather sunny

Evaluator PG

Type

(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score

(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential

(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success

(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).

The hard angular lines of the structures in the lumber yard and the piles of lumber disrupt the continuity of the natural landscape. The addition of vegetative screening could buffer the visual impact somewhat but the overall potential for rehabilitation is low.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

CHROMO

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Substation - 003

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	1	3

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	3	H	M	L	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 2 Frame # 30

Time of day 1:30 p Weather sunny

Evaluator PG

Type
(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score
(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential
(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success
(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).

The hard rectilinear form and bright metallic coloration of this substation contrast distinctly with the natural, subtle components of the surrounding landscape. The probability of reducing the contrast is very low.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

CHROMO

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Powerline 004

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	1	5

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	4	M	E	L	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 3 Frame # 19

Time of day 3:15 p Weather clear

Evaluator PG

Type

(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score

(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential

(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success

(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).

This power lines rigid, linear form contrasts strongly with the more subtle contours of the natural landscape short of elimination of the line, little can be done in respect to reducing the contrast.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

TABLE 3

USE VOLUME DATA SUMMARY
(Chromo Planning Unit)

KEY OBSERVATION POINT	LOCATION	VOLUME
U.S. Hwy. 84	--	High
U.S. Hwy. 160	--	High
Navajo River Road	Navajo River	Moderate
Coyote Park Road	Edith to Coyote Park	Moderate
Fourmile Creek Road	North out of Pagosa Springs	High
McCabe Creek Road	McCabe Creek	High
Hatcher Reservoir Road	Hatcher Reservoir to U.S. 160	High
Stinking Springs Road	Stinking Springs Canyon	High
Hall Canyon Road	Hall Canyon	Moderate
Turkey Springs Campground Road	North from U.S. 160 near Dyke	Moderate

VISUAL SENSITIVITY - USER ATTITUDES

OVERVIEW

A visual sensitivity workshop was held for the Durango and Chromo Planning Units on Friday, January 26 at 10:00 AM in the Fairgrounds Extension Building in Durango. Of the 39 individuals contacted, 10 participated. A list of those invited and/or attending is shown in Table 4. Heavy snow and high winds the morning of the workshop may have accounted for the low turn out. Those who did attend were felt to be a representative cross-section of citizen interest group, industry and agency interests in the study area.

Mr. Jerry Kendrick, Area Manager opened the workshop with an introduction which included the relationship of this workshop to the overall Area planning effort. Mr. Bill Bottomly, State Office Landscape Architect and COAR for this project then presented an overview of the Bureau's inventory and decision making approach which considers the values of all resource inputs. Mr. Bottomly stressed further that this workshop is concerned only with visual resources and, as such, is only one aspect of the overall planning effort. The remainder of the workshop was presented and facilitated by Wirth Associates.

All 10 of the workshop data sheets submitted were considered valid and used in the analysis.

Of the total 15 rating units in the Chromo Planning Unit, 2 rated high, 12 rated moderate and 1 rated low after analyses and tabulation of the workshop data sheets. The high ratings were given to Echo Canyon Reservoir (#10) and Martinez Canyon (#13). The low rating was given to the Coyote Creek unit (#5) and all other rating units received a moderate rating. Of the moderate ratings, all seem appropriate with the possible exception of those units containing the San Juan River (#8) and the Navajo River (#2) which would have been expected to rate higher.

Results indicate that participants would be strongly opposed to mining virtually anywhere in the Chromo Planning Unit. Reaction to other types of change was somewhat variable and more selective depending upon the particular area. The workshop summary and analysis forms which follow will provide the Area Office Management with information on user reaction to change of various types for each of the 15 Chromo rating units. Following the workshop summary and analysis forms are the specific comments submitted by some of the participants at the Durango/Chromo workshop. These were not used in our analysis process to determine final ratings but are submitted here as supplementary information.

TABLE 4

DURANGO/CHROMO WORKSHOP INVITEES LIST

Al Bishop
Dolores Chamber of Commerce
(did not attend)

Rod Blacker
Four Courners Env. Research Inst.
(participated)

Carl A. Brown
(did not attend)

Joe Brown
(did not attend)

Charles R. Butler
(did not attend)

Christopher Chavez
Archuleta County Commissioner
(did not attend)

Gloria Childress
(did not attend)

Patrick Conley
La Plata County Commissioner
(did not attend)

Roy Craig
(did not attend)

W. H. Diestelkamp
Archuleta County Commissioner
(did not attend)

Bryce Dunscomb
Colorado State Forest Service
(participated)

Glen Edmonds
Pagosa Springs Sun
(did not attend)

Preston Ellsworth
(participated)

Paris Engler
(did not attend)

Betty Feazel
(did not attend)

Anthony Ferdinando
(participated)

Elva Fox
Durango Bird Club
(participated)

Milton Fuller
(did not attend)

Robert A. Gray
(did not attend)

Art Gresh
Colorado Division of Wildlife
(attended, did not participate)

Joe Grinnan
Shell Oil
(did not attend)

Robert Helmick
PBR, Regional Planning
(participated)

Bob Leid
Durango Chamber of Commerce
(did not attend)

Jim Mayfield
Colorado Highway Department
(participated)

Dave McHenry
San Juan National Forest
(participated)

Erwin Means
LaPlata County Commissioner
(did not attend)

Wayne Moorehead
(did not attend)

DURANGO/CHROMO (continued)

Meg Nagel
Colorado Open Space Council
(did not attend)

William K. Nielson
(did not attend)

Carroll Peterson
San Juan Ecological Society
(did not attend)

Maxine Peterson
Durango Mayor
(participated)

Sally Ranney
American Wilderness Alliance
(did not attend)

Phillips B. Reddick
Animas Regional Planning
(did not attend)

Harold E. Schutz
Archuleta County Commissioner
(did not attend)

R. T. Scott
la Plata County Commissioner
(did not attend)

John Smith
King Coal Mine
(did not attend)

Albert Spencer
(did not attend)

Nancy Strait
Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce
(did not attend)

Edwin Zink
(participated)

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT CHROMO

Rating Units	Landscape Values		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating # 1 Unit: avajo Peak Foothills	HIGH	P	2
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	HIGH	HP	2
	MED.	MP	2
	LOW	LP	1
	LOW	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	7	2	2	1	5/	2	2
▨		2	5	3	5	3	2
▩		3		2	1	1	2

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: A weak "high" rating for Desired Management Class was indicated by participants, however, through their responses to Landscape Modification they indicated a clear "moderate" trend.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT CHROMO

Rating Units	Landscape Values		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #2 Chromo	HIGH	P	
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):		HP	2
	MED.	MP	4
	LOW	LP	1
		R	1

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	4	4	2	2	2	2	3
▒	4		3	3	2	2	
▓		4	3	2	3	3	4

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: Respondents indicated both a "moderate" level of protection desired and "moderate" adverse reaction to essentially all types of change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

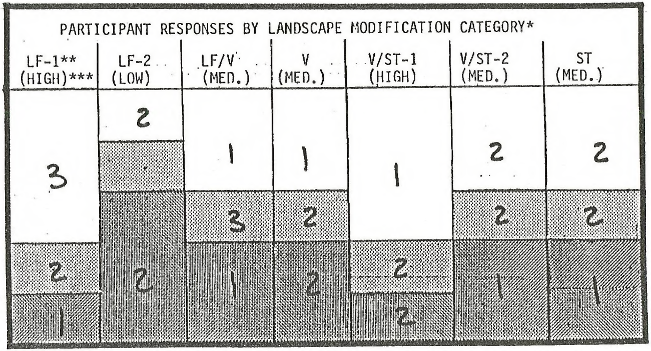
** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT CHROMO

Rating Units			Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #3 Mesa	LANDSCAPE VALUES HIGH	P	
		HP	1
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	MED.	MP	4
	LOW	LP	1
		R	



Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: Respondents indicated a moderate overall adverse reaction to landscape modification which correlates well with their "moderate" desired level of protection.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▦ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT CHROMO

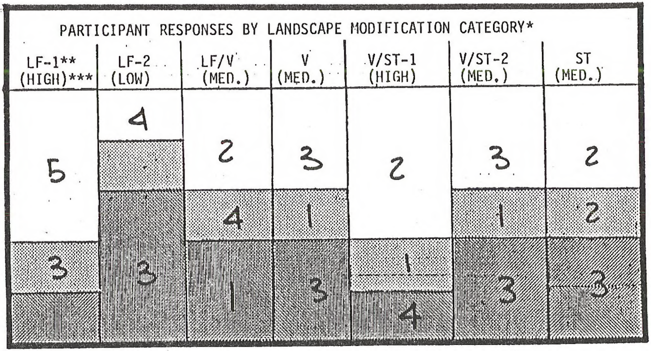
Rating Units

Workshop Rating #4 Unit:
Najo River Canyon

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	2
	HP	2
MED.	MP	3
LOW	LP	
	R	1

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*



Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The ratings of moderate to high were resolved by the BLM to "moderate" which is the rating for the Navajo River (Chromo #2) up stream in the Chromo Unit.

* ▭ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT CHROMO

Rating Units

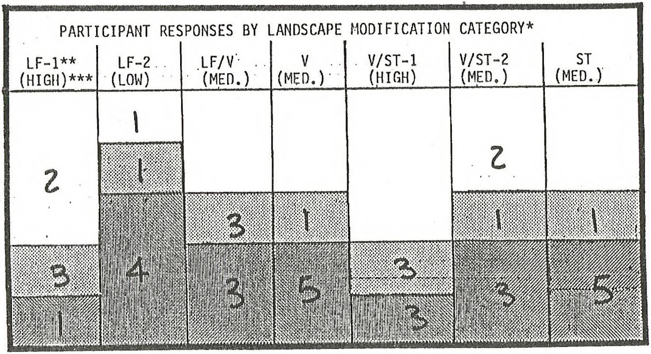
Workshop Rating Unit: #5

yote Creek

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
HIGH	HP	1
MED.	MP	3
LOW	LP	3
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*



Final Rating: LOW

Rationale: Weak "moderate" rating for Desired Management Class was reduced by the overall low ratings for Landscape Modification.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT CHROMO

Rating Units	LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: # 6 Rim	HIGH	P	1
		HP	2
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	MED.	MP	4
	LOW	LP	1
		R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	5	2	1	2	1	3	1
░	1	2	5	3	3	2	4
▓	1	3	1	2	3	2	2

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The "moderate" level of protection desired correlates well with the moderate adverse response to landscape Modifications.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ░ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT CHROMO

Rating Units	Landscape Values		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #7	HIGH	P	
Pagosa Springs Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	HIGH	HP	2
	MED.	MP	4
	LOW	LP	3
	LOW	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
	M	L	L	M	M	M	L
☐ High Ratings	4	1	1		1	1	
▨ Moderate Ratings	3	2	3	5	4	4	2
▩ Low Ratings	1	5	4	3	3	3	6

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The weak "moderate" rating for the desired level of protection correlates well with the weak moderate adverse reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT CHROMO

Rating Units	Landscape Values		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: # 8 n Juan River	HIGH	P	1
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):		HP	3
	MED.	MP	3
	LOW	LP	1
		R	1

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	5	3	1	2	1	3	3
░	3	2	5	4	5	3	4
▓		3	2	2	2	2	1

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The moderate/high borderline rating for the Desired Mgmt Class was resolved to moderate by the BLM because of the overall moderate ratings for reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ░ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

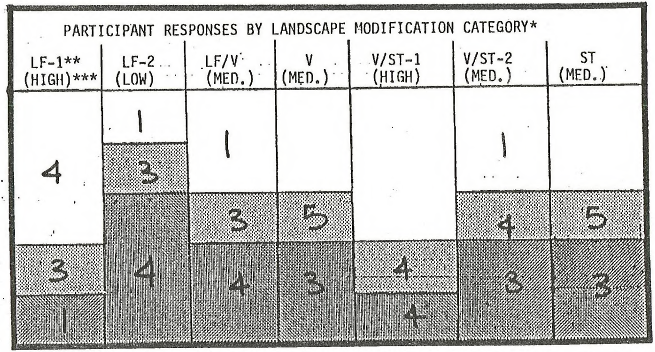
VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT CHROMO

Workshop Rating Unit: #9
cCabe Creek

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

Rating Units		Desired Mgmt. Class
LANDSCAPE VALUES HIGH	P	
	HP	2
LANDSCAPE VALUES MED.	MP	3
LANDSCAPE VALUES LOW	LP	4
	R	



Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: "Moderate" ratings are indicated by respondents for both the level of protection desired and reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ■ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

***Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

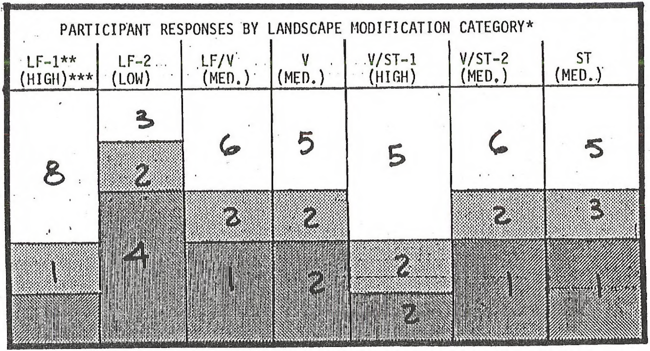
PLANNING UNIT CHROMO

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #10
ho Canyon Reservoir

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	2
	HP	3
MED.	MP	3
LOW	LP	1
	R	1



Final Rating: HIGH

Rationale: A clear "high" level of protection desired and "high" adverse reaction to change is indicated by participants.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT CHROMO

Rating Units	Landscape Values		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #11	HIGH	P	1
aystack Mountain	HIGH	HP	3
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	MED.	MP	3
	LOW	LP	2
	LOW	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	5	2	3	1	3	3	3
▒	4	3	3	4	2	3	3
▓		4	3	4	4	3	3

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The moderate/high borderline ratings for Desired Mgmt. Class were resolved to moderate by BLM because of the overall moderate ratings for landscape modification.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT CHROMO

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #12
netha Flats

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
HIGH	HP	2
MED.	MP	4
LOW	LP	3
LOW	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	6	2	2	2	3	4	1
▨	3	4	5	4	2	1	3
▩		3	2	3	4	4	5

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The "moderate" level of protection desired correlates well with the "moderate" overall reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT CHROMO

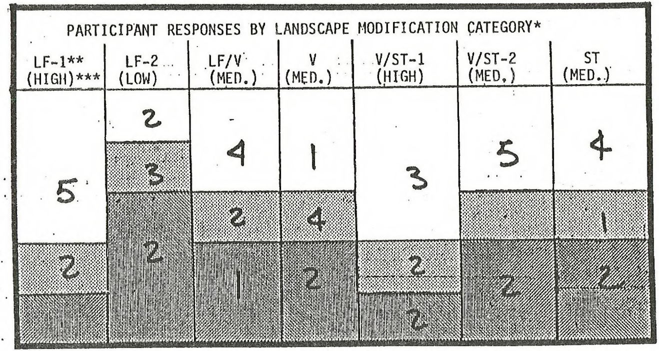
Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #13

rtinez Canyon

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	1
	HP	3
MED.	MP	2
LOW	LP	1
	R	



Final Rating: HIGH

Rationale: The "high" level of protection indicated is reinforced by the strong negative reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

***Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT CHROMO

Rating Units

Workshop Rating # 14
Unit: Stollsteimer Creek Valley

Scenic Quality
Rating Unit(s):

Landscape Values		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
HIGH	HP	2
MED.	MP	6
LOW	LP	
LOW	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	5	2	1	3	1	3	1
▨	3	3	5	2	5	4	5
■		3	2	3	2	1	2

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The "moderate" level of protection indicated is confirmed by the "moderate" adverse reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ■ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT CHROMO

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: Dyke # 14a

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	2
MED.	MP	4
LOW	LP	1
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	5	3	1	4	2	4	1
▨	2	2	5	2	4	2	5
▩		2	1	1	1	1	1

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: Desired Mgmt. Class ratings indicate a moderate level of concern for the visual resources in this area while responses to landscape modification are mixed, from moderate to high. BLM Area Office personnel resolved the final rating of MODERATE through their knowledge of the area.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

SPECIFIC ISSUES, PROJECTS OR LANDS OF CONCERN TO YOUR GROUP OR AGENCY:

In the following space please indicate any issues or concerns your agency or group has about visual resource management in this BLM Resource Area. Specific projects, lands or issues can be addressed. Indicate on the base maps provided, the location of specific lands you are concerned about. Use a code letter/word or other identifiable designation referenced in your narrative.

Participant Anthony [illegible]

Date Jan 26, 1979

area 26
area 22
Designated as wildlife refuge areas and would like to see these preserved as such.

SPECIFIC ISSUES, PROJECTS OR LANDS OF CONCERN TO YOUR GROUP OR AGENCY:

In the following space please indicate any issues or concerns your agency or group has about visual resource management in this BLM Resource Area. Specific projects, lands or issues can be addressed. Indicate on the base maps provided, the location of specific lands you are concerned about. Use a code letter/word or other identifiable designation referenced in your narrative.

Participant J.H. Mayfield

Date 1-26-79

The Colo. Div. of Hiways is concerned about any land use that impact's transportation. If that impact occurs there must be the ability to expand transportation facilities to handle the transportation require-ment.

SPECIFIC ISSUES, PROJECTS OR LANDS OF CONCERN TO YOUR GROUP OR AGENCY:

In the following space please indicate any issues or concerns your agency or group has about visual resource management in this BLM Resource Area. Specific projects, lands or issues can be addressed. Indicate on the base maps provided, the location of specific lands you are concerned about. Use a code letter/word or other identifiable designation referenced in your narrative.

Participant P. ELLSWORTH

Date JAN 27, '79

SAN JAUN CHAMA DIVERSION AND ITS EFFECT ON. BIOLOGICAL NEEDS OF THE RIVER. # 2 # 4

ANIMAS LA PLATA PROJECT AND ITS VISUAL + ECONOMIC + WILDLIF EFFECTS ON # 23 # 22 # 27 # 29 # 30

FINAL VISUAL SENSITIVITY LEVELS

OVERVIEW

After analysis somewhat over three-quarters of the lands within the Chromo Planning Unit resulted in a high overall level of sensitivity. This land is located primarily in the upper Chromo Unit within the seen area of the high use volume highways. A band also follows U.S. Highway 84 in the lower Chromo Unit.

Four areas of moderate sensitivity, two in the upper unit and two in the lower unit, generally correspond to the seldom seen (low use volume) areas.

A large area of low sensitivity resulted in the Edith/Coyote Park area of the lower Chromo Unit. This was the result of moderate and low use volume areas in combination with low user attitudes.

DISTANCE ZONES

OVERVIEW

Key observer points from which Distance Zones were determined for the Chromo Planning Unit are listed in Table 3.

Because of the numerous moderate and high use volume roads crossing the planning unit, well over three-quarters of the area is within the Foreground-Middleground Zone. No Background Zone land occurs within the planning unit because of the small size of the two Chromo units.

Five scattered Seldom Seen areas occur throughout the planning unit. One is in the upper Chromo unit along Devil Creek. The other four occur in the lower

DURANGO P. U.

DURANGO PLANNING UNIT

GENERAL SETTING

Longer and larger than the two units of the Chromo Planning Unit combined, the Durango Planning Unit extends nearly 38 miles east-west and generally 8 miles north-south with the exception of the extreme eastern corner which reaches nearly 15 miles in width. Overall the unit encompasses 205,700 acres. The city of Durango, near the mid part of the unit, is a convenient reference for the major physiographic divisions of Southern Rocky Mountains to the north and east and Colorado Plateau on the south and west. The plateau area consists of both Canyon Lands (young to mature canyoned plateaus of high relief) and the Navajo Section (young plateaus, smaller than in Canyon Lands from where they grade). The composite of these major divisions is a planning unit including steep mountains, narrow valleys, broad hills, and steeply incised almost furroughed canyons.

From the western border to the community of Hesperus a number of north-south, wooded incised drainage gulches and sharp ridges line the landscape. From Hesperus to Durango the landscape character is split almost evenly along an , east-west line with the northern section composed of sharp charges in elevation and the southern section more open and rolling.

This character generally follows this division from Durango to the eastern boundary with the elevation and topographic changes increasing steadily northward towards the Continental Divide, located approximately 18 miles northeast of the planning unit. Elevations are over 10,000 at the northeast corner, 7000 feet at the southeast corner, and generally 8000 feet at the western end of the planning unit.

There are several major and minor riparian areas influencing the planning unit. Two are major rivers; the Animas River flowing north-south through Durango and the center of the unit, and Los Pinos River flowing north-south along the eastern boundary. Two other rivers, the Florida and La Plata, are subordinate to the Animas and Los Pinos Rivers in volume, scale and visual impact and also flow generally north to south through the unit. Two large reservoirs play important visual-recreation roles: the Lemon Reservoir, totally within the planning unit near the northeast corner, and the Vallecito Reservoir located outside the unit but adjacent to the northeast corner. Vallecito Reservoir is several times larger than the Lemon Reservoir and is actively used as a recreation area by tourists, campers and summer residents. Other reservoirs (including Lake Simpatica and City Reservoir No. 1) have negligible visual impact. Several major creeks (North Fork, South Fork, Texas, Beaver, Spring, Junction, Lightner, Basin, and Cherry Creeks) are scattered east to west through the unit and constitute localized visual influences. Several irrigation ditches (Hay Gulch, Big Stick and Schroeder Ditches and the Florida Canal) play important agricultural roles but are of minor visual concern.

The city of Durango, the unit's largest urban area, is located in the middle of the planning unit near the intersection of U.S. Route 550 north-south and U.S. Route 160 east-west, the two major highways within the planning unit. In the extreme southeastern corner of the unit, at the junction of U.S. Route 160 and State Highway 284, is Bayfield, approximately 1/10 the size of Durango and the second largest urban area in the unit. The remaining urban area is a combination of the four small but contiguous communities of Grandview, Pinon Acres, Loma Linda and Talfa. Other communities exist at various road junctions and these include Hespurus, Fort Lewis, and Columbus. None are large enough to be considered urban areas and have little visual impact on the planning unit as a whole.

SQRU GENERAL LANDSCAPE TYPES & SUMMARY
PLANNING UNIT: DURANGO

GENERAL TYPE KEY

Mountains
Ridges and Narrow Valleys
Canyons
Parks
Mesas
Rolling Hills
Broad Valleys
River Valleys
Basins
Reservoirs

SQRU NO.	NAME	GENERAL TYPE
017	Missionary Ridge	Rolling Hills
018	Horse Gulch	Ridges & Narrow Valleys
019	Florida River Basin	Rolling Hills
020	Florida River Valley	Narrow Valley
021	Lemon Reservoir	Reservoir
022	Spring Gulch	Narrow Valley
023	Upper Los Pinos River Valley	River Valley
024	Vosburg Pike	Ridges & Narrow Valleys
025	Los Pinos River Valley	River Valley
026	Ludwig Mountain	Rolling Hills
027	Gem Village	Low Rolling Hills & Valleys
028	Rabbit Mountain	Rolling Hills
029	Animas River (north)	River Valley
030	Animas River (south)	River Valley
031	Animas City Mountain	Mountains
032	Junction Creek	Narrow Valley
033	Perrins Peak	Mountains
034	Lightner Creek	Narrow Valley
035	La Plata River Terrace	Broad Valley
036	Ridges Basin	Basin
037	Wildcat	Rolling Hills
038	Cherry Gulch/Hay Gulch	Rolling Hills
039	La Plata River	River Valley
040	Mesa	Mesa
041	Cherry Creek Canyon	Canyon
042	Thompson Park	Park

DISTRICT: MONTROSE

RESOURCE AREA: SAN JUAN

PLANNING UNIT: DURANGO

SQRU			RATING CRITERIA						TOTAL	
NO.	NAME	LF	V	W	C	AS	S	CM	NO.	SQR
017	Missionary Ridge	3	3	1	3	2	1	2	15	B
018	Horse Gulch	3	2	0	2	2	1	1	11	C
019	Florida River Basin	1	1	1	2	3	1	0	9	C
020	Florida River Valley	2	5	4	4	3	2	0	20	A
021	Lemon Reservoir	3	4	5	5	0	5	1	23	A
022	Spring Gulch	2	3	1	3	0	1	0	10	C
023	Upper Los Pinos River	2	4	5	4	1	4	0	20	A
024	Vosburg Pike	4	3	2	3	3	1	2	18	B
025	Los Pinos River Valley	1	3	4	3	3	2	0	16	B
026	Ludwig Mountain	3	3	1	3	2	1	0	13	B
027	Gem Village	2	2	0	2	2	1	0	9	C
028	Rabbit Mountain	2	2	0	2	1	1	2	10	C
029	Animas River (north)	1	4	4	3	4	4	0	20	A
030	Animas River (south)	2	3	5	3	3	4	-4	16	B
031	Animas City Mountain	3	3	0	4	5	1	2	18	B
032	Junction Creek	3	4	3	4	5	3	-2	20	A
033	Perrins Peak	4	3	0	3	4	1	1	16	B
034	Lightner Creek	3	4	3	4	3	1	0	18	B
035	La Plata River Terrace	1	1	0	2	4	1	2	11	C
036	Ridges Basin	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	9	C
037	Wildcat	2	3	1	3	4	1	0	14	B
038	Cherry Gulch/Hay Gulch	3	3	1	3	4	1	1	16	B
039	La Plata River	1	3	3	3	4	1	1	16	B
040	Mesa	1	1	0	2	4	1	2	11	C
041	Cherry Creek Canyon	3	3	2	4	1	1	2	16	B
042	Thompson Park	1	2	2	2	5	1	2	15	B

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

One rating unit within the Durango Planning Unit, 021 Lemon Reservoir, has been identified as a potential Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) by virtue of the fact that it represents Class A scenery and has received a rating of 5 in regard to its relative scarcity within the region.

This rating unit represents an area of extraordinary scenic quality and requires special management attention to insure preservation of the qualities which make it exceptional.

The rating criteria for this unit appear below.

SQRU		RATING CRITERIA							TOTAL	
NO.	NAME	LF	V	W	C	AS	S	CM	NO.	SQR
021	Lemon Reservoir	3	4	5	5	0	5	1	23	A

(021) Lemon Reservoir. This unit has a variety of landscape features that combine to create an area of great visual interest. Contrasting forms, textures, and colors of these landscape features add greatly to this landscape.

District Montrose

Date December 14, 1978

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) CJ, MF, KVM

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 017 - Missionary Ridge

Film: Roll # 4 Frame # 1, 21
5 6, 13, 25, 26

Time of Day 9:00 a.m.

Weather clear, cold

Landscape Character: Rolling Hills

General Narrative: This uniformly sloping hillside is located in the northern part of the Durango Planning Unit. These hills slope to the south into a quarter mile wide valley floor. To the west there is a distinct ridge dropping dramatically to the Animas River. Vegetation on the slopes consist of a solid stand of pines, spruce, and fir, with a variety of shrubs and grass understory. The distinct characteristic of this area is the uniform slope throughout these hillsides.

South of this slope a variety of vegetative species exist along the small river which meanders through this valley. Visual experiences thange throughout this area from the meandering roadway, accented by the variety of vegetation, textures, colors and forms. Though many houses are located within the valley floor the hillsides to the north have been untouched and appear very natural.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	1
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	2
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 15 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
017	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date December 14, 1978

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 018 - Horse Gulch

Film: Roll # 4 Frame # 2
5 2,5,18,19,21
22,23,27-31

Time of Day 10:00 a.m.

Weather clear, cold

Landscape Character: Ridges and Narrow Valleys

General Narrative: Two large hogback ridges 3-4 miles long crest in exposed rock-capped remnants of varying widths of approximately 100 feet wide and rise nearly 1000 feet above the surrounding valleys. From a number of views these hogbacks are striking in form due to their narrow crests; from other view points (west and south) residential development along lower slopes has eliminated their naturalness but has added scale to the scene.

Composed of uplifted, moderate to severe dipping strata, eroded deeper on the exposed rock face by river downcutting, high cliffs where formed on one side while a gentle slope was formed on the opposite side.

Moderately to heavily covered in fir, pine and scrub oak the ridges are divided by Horse Gulch.

Located adjacent to Durango and the Pinon Acres development, these hogbacks are in obvious view to many people.

Overall these ridges are natural, provide excellent views, but in an area as mountainous as Durango they are common.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2
3	Water	5	-3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	2
5	Influence	5	3	0	2
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 11 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU Final Rating
018 C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date December 14, 1978

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 019 - Florida River Basin

Film: Roll # 4 Frame # 35,36

2 1,2,3,4,5,6,9,16-20

Time of Day 3:00 p.m.

Weather clear

Landscape Character: Rolling Hills

General Narrative: This unit is a gently rolling broad valley nearly 7 miles long and 4 miles wide. Bordered by rolling hills, sharp ridges and valleys, and the Animas River, it becomes a well defined unit through contrasts in the natural landscape and vegetation.

The valley is primarily grasslands with isolated groves of cottonwoods, junipers, and Scrub Oak, and is marked by ranches throughout the unit involved in grazing. Views are extensive, and it is common to see neighboring areas and the higher mountain peaks. There are a number of small streams meandering south, combining with the Florida River, adding diversity and scenic quality to this area. The towns of Lima Linda and Grandview are located in the southwestern corner of this unit with a major state highway (160), traversing west-east between them and the town of Bayfield. The area appears to be natural with little physical disturbance by the ranches. Most ranches appear quite old and add to the interest and scenic quality of this unit.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	1
3	Water	5	3	0	1
4	Color	5	3	1	2
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0-small communities

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33

Class B 12-18

Class C 11 or Less

SQRU 019

Final Rating C

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 9 = ____ A, B, or C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date December 14, 1978

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) CJ, MF, KVM

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 020 - Florida River Valley

Film: Roll # 4 Frame # 3,4,5

5 10, 11, 12

Time of Day 9:00 a.m.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Narrow Valley

General Narrative: This narrow valley is situated between rolling hills and steep ridges though only 1/3 mile in width, it is distinct due to the abruptness of the hillsides to the north and south. The Florida River meanders through this valley and creates a diversity of vegetative types consisting of Ponderosa Pine, Spruce, Fir, Cottonwoods, Willows, and Scrub Oak. One result of the river's influence is a number of ranches that use this area for grazing cattle and horses. A number of small ranch resorts are also located within the valley providing recreational opportunities. Though there are numerous ranches and homesites, the area remains visually natural and the scenic quality has not been adversely affected.

Views are limited to the immediate foreground, however the spatial experiences change as one moves through this curvilinear valley floor.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	5
3	Water	5	3	0	4
4	Color	5	3	1	4
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	2
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 20 = ____

A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
020	A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date December 14, 1978

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) KVM, MF, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 021-Lemon Reservoir

Film: Roll # 4 Frame # 6,7,8,9,10,11

Time of Day 9:30 a.m.

Weather clear, cold

Landscape Character: Reservoir

General Narrative: The 215-foot tall Lemon Dam backs up the Florida River creating Lemon Reservoir which extends 3 miles in length and 1/2 mile in width. Surrounded by rolling hills of distinct shapes, occasionally displaying red rock outcrops between forested areas of aspen, fir, and pine, the unit contains considerable visual interest.

This positive cultural modification has changed the valley completely and provided a number of recreation possibilities as well as a significant visual attraction. It would appear large numbers of people pass through this area each year.

The adjacent unit (Florida River Valley SQRU 020) contains a number of recreation oriented ranches and must attract people to the area.

From the road and reservoir level few distant views are possible. From the surrounding hills and even higher slopes (adjacent Miller Mtn. elevation 11,740') panoramic views are possible in many directions.

Although somewhat of an unusual area Lemon Reservoir is not "one of a kind" within this planning unit which also contains Vallecito Reservoir, which is several times as large. Regardless of similar features, Lemon Reservoir is visually special and warrants a high visual quality rating.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4-aspen & evergreen
3	Water	5	3	0	5-reservoir & river
4	Color	5	3	1	5-veg, water, earth
5	Influence	5	3	0	0
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	5-one of few
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 23 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
021	A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Planning Unit Durango

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 022-Spring Gulch

Film: Roll # 4 Frame # 12, 13

Landscape Character:

Date December 14, 1978

Evaluator(s) KVM, MF, CJ

Time of Day 1:00 p.m.

Weather clear

Narrow Valley

General Narrative: Spring Gulch is a narrow valley two miles in length and a mile in width measured rodge top to ridge top. It is a small area but physiographically different than either a broad valley or adjacent rolling hills.

Located within this valley are several residences, a few ranch areas and signs indicating future subdivision development for first/second homes.

Cultural intrusions, specifically power lines or timber poles, seem more offensive due to the small scale nature of this unit.

Although views are limited and the area is common this unit is interesting and attractive due to the tumbling nature of the hills, tall Ponderosa Pine, and a scale that is easily comprehended.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	1
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	0
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 10 = ____ (A, B, or C)

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
022	C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date December 14, 1978

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 023-Upper Los Pinos River

Film: Roll # 4 Frame # 14-22

Time of Day 11:00 a.m.

Weather sunny and clear

Landscape Character: River Valley

General Narrative: The Los Pinos River cuts through this valley as it meanders south from Vallecito Reservoir to the Broad Valley north of Bayfield. The valley itself is very flat containing a thick corridor of cottonwoods and willows along the stream bank. The Los Pinos River is generally a moderately wide river flowing all year around. There are isolated water bodies that have been separated from the river indicating a continually changing water channel. Beyond the stream bank ranches use the valley for grazing.

Surrounding the valley floor are rolling hills with occasionally steep side slopes. These slopes are covered in a solid stand of Ponderosa, Fir and Juniper which create a sharp contrast in color and texture to the valley floor. Views extend to the surrounding hills east and west of the valley floor.

The area below Vallecito Reservoir contains many small ranches as well as a small resort development. It appears this area attracts large numbers of people in the summer months and supports a number of cabins and commercial facilities. These structures do not appear to intrude on the naturalness or scenic quality of this unit.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4
3	Water	5	3	0	5
4	Color	5	3	1	4
5	Influence	5	3	0	1
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	4
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 20 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
023	A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date December 14, 1978

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) KVM, MF, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 024-Vosburg Pike

Film: Roll # 4 Frame # 20,23,24
5 1,7,14,15,24

Time of Day 12:15 p.m.

Weather clear, cold

Landscape Character: Rodges and Narrow Valleys

General Narrative: Vosburg Pike at 8892' is the second highest point on one hogback and a number of lesser well-formed hills and narrow drainage valleys. Other high points include Ruels Hill at 8222' and Rabbit Mountain at 7715'. Tree cover varies from moderate to heavy stands of Ponderosa Pine and areas of Juniper-Pinyon.

The South Fork of Texas Creek runs through a steep, narrow valley between Vosburg Pike (on the hogback to the north) and Rules Hill (one of many hills) on the south. The North Fork of Texas Creek separates Vosburg Pike from an un-named crest of 8999', the highest point in this unit. As with the South Fork, both are paralleled by roads. These roads and most others in the surrounding area contain views of every aspect of the hills. Views from the hill crests are panoramic.
These hills are visually interesting, generally natural, but could not be considered scarce or unique in an area of many mountains, ridges and hills.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	4-occ. dramatic rock outcrops
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	2-not obvious
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
024	B

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 18 = ____ A, B, or C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date December 14, 1978

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) KVM, CJ, MF

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 025-Los Pinos River Valley

Film: Roll # 4 Frame # 25,26,27,28,29

Time of Day 1:00 p.m.

Weather clear

Landscape Character: River Valley

General Narrative: This broad river valley is 2 to 3 miles wide and several miles long. It is joined on the east and west by abruptly rising hills generally oriented north-south. Flowing south from Valecito Reservoir, the Los Pinos River braids a meandering course through the valley and is the most distinctive visual attraction not only from the river itself, but also in part due to the clearly visible, diverse vegetation, which contrasts sharply against the adjacent agricultural-grazing lands.

Views are diverse and include occasional vistas of the San Juan Mountains and surrounding forested hillsides.

At the southern end of this valley the town of Bayfield detracts from the natural environment with its accompanying transmission lines, pipelines and typical support systems.

Even with a number of modifications to the natural landscape this area retains an interesting visual quality.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	4-River
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	2
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
025	B

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 16 = ____ A, B, or C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Planning Unit Durango

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 026-Ludwig Mountain

Film: Roll # 4 Frame # 27

Date December 14, 1978

Evaluator(s) KVM, MF, CJ

Time of Day 2:00 p.m.

Weather clear

Landscape Character: Rolling Hills

General Narrative: At 8191 feet Ludwig Mountain is the highest point within a series of rolling hills along the eastern boundary of this planning unit. Formed as part of Shaefer Mountain (located outside the planning unit) Ludwig Mountain has been cut into a separate form by the erosional activity of Little Bear Creek; it is higher, narrower, and more unusual than the larger number of lesser slopes.

Taken as a whole these hills are common appearing; sometimes covered in Pinyon-Juniper, other times sparse, and yet in areas moderately covered in Pine. Excellent views of adjacent and distant areas westward are offset by restricted views eastward.

Lake Simpatica, located just north of Ludwig Mountain, is a small but noteable body of water in an area devoid of lakes; visually however, it is not obvious in the landscape.

This rating unit is depreciated by the number of roads and new subdivisions and is not unusual or especially scenic.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	1
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	2
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 13 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU 026

Final Rating B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date December 14, 1978

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) KVM, CJ, MF

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 027-Gem Village

Film: Roll # 4 Frame # 30,31,32,33

Time of Day 10:45 a.m.

Weather clear

Landscape Character: Low Hills and Valleys

General Narrative: The Gem Village SQRU was difficult to define due to the large number of rolling hills within this planning unit. Our team felt this area was different from similar areas and that the difference was characterized by valleys among hills, rather than the reverse situation of hills within valleys. This is a subtle change and often difficult to identify in the field. The hills are prominent but scattered. They are rounded, wooded, and generally support the Pinyon-Juniper Association. From Route 160 (which basically divides the unit) the viewer passes from one valley across scattered, low hills into another valley. Within the valleys are scattered residences (farms and ranches) although occasionally they have been developed closer to each other. The hills define valley spaces and are framed within a larger spatial sequence by the larger ridges and mountains in the distance.

Within the more urban area of Gem Village proper, a number of cultural modifications and intrusions exist, but have not been considered part of this unit.

A number of small streams lace this unit but are not important visually. Northern views of adjacent mountains are impressive. Basically the units visual landscape is common but pleasant all the same.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	2
5	Influence	5	3	0	2
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0-substation

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 9 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Ratin
027	C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date December 14, 1978

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) KVM, MF, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 028-Rabbit Mountain

Film: Roll # 4 Frame # 34,35
5 8

Time of Day 2:20 p.m.

Weather clear

Landscape Character: Rolling Hills

General Narrative: Rabbit Mountain at 7715' is one of many mountains in this unit over 7700 feet; being close together the overall scale is deminished to an overall appearance of rolling hills rather than mountains.

Difficult to classify because of the many hills in this area (see SQRU 024) it was the concensus of the rating team that these hills were closer together and created unusually narrow, slope drainages than the hill area to the south.

Thickly covered in Pinyon-Juniper the hills are natural but common. Several canyons appearing on maps of this area are not canyons in the strict sense of the word but appear as no more than the visual drainage valleys.

Views of these hills are impressive, views from these hills include valleys and distant mountains, but again this is not unusual in an area of mountains and tall ridges.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	2
5	Influence	5	3	0	1
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 10 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
028	C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 12/15/78

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 029-Animas River Valley (north)

Film: Roll # 7 Frame # 16-20

Time of Day 9:00 a.

Weather clear

Landscape Character: River Valley

General Narrative: The Animas River has carved a wide valley in the mountains and hills that bound it to the east and west. Many oxbows are present tracing the history of the rivers meandering course. Dense stands of cottonwoods and willows inhabit the valley floor and rivers' edge, supporting a diverse wildlife community. Several herds of elk and deer were spotted during our stay in Durango. North of the city grazing is a dominant agricultural feature. Tracks of the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad pass through this area. Highway 550 and a smaller county road flank both sides of the valley attracting a good deal of development that might be considered visually distractive from the area. But the adjacent steep slopes with colorful outcrops of resistant horizontally banded rocks attract attention adding significantly to the scenic quality of the Animas River.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1-low flat
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4-dense
3	Water	5	3	0	4-Animas River
4	Color	5	3	1	3-seasonal
5	Influence	5	3	0	4-adjacent slopes
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	4-river
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0-balanced

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 20 = A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
029	A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 12/10/78

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 030-Animas River South

Film: Roll # 6 Frame # 34-35
7 27-29, 30-31

Time of Day 4:00 p.m.

Weather clear

Landscape Character: River Valley

General Narrative: The Animas River is the dominant feature in this rating unit. The river meanders through the valley it has cut and is bounded to the east and west by steep, angular ridges and hillsides.

A band of vegetation dominated by cottonwoods and willows follows the rivers' course and adds a touch of color and textural variety to the landscape.

Sweeping views of the neighboring La Plata Mountains strongly enhance the scenic nature of the rivers though industrial land uses along the river banks are somewhat distracting.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	5-river
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	4
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	-4

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 16 = ______ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33
Class B 12-18
Class C 11 or Less

SQRU 030
Final Ratin B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 12/15/78

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 031-Animas City Mountain

Film: Roll # 7 Frame # 25

Time of Day 9:30 a.

Weather clear

Landscape Character: Mountains

General Narrative: Animas City Mountain stands at an elevation of 8161 feet and overlooks the city of Durango which lies to the south.

The mountain has a rounded form and is capped by a resistant layer of sedimentary rock. Many exposed diagonally oriented strata are evident along the face of the mountain and the color of the rock ranges from light tan to gray and red.

With the exception of steep outcrop areas, the mountainsides are forested with a fairly continous cover of ponderosa pine, pinyon, and juniper.

No cultural modifications mar this landscape and views of adjacent peaks enhance the overall scenic quality of the unit.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	4
5	Influence	5	3	0	5
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 18 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less
SQRU ↓	Final Ratin ↓
031	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 12/10/78

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 032-Junction Creek

Film: Roll # 7 Frame # 21-24, 26

Time of Day 11:30 a.

Weather clear

Landscape Character: Narrow Valley

General Narrative: This is a wide canyon characterized by high, nearly vertical cliffs which define a broad and flat canyon floor. The canyon walls are massive and blocky and exhibit strong horizontal and vertical banding. The sedimentary strata range in color from red to tan to gray.

Differential erosion in the area has resulted in a number of sculptured landforms. Isolated, conical buttes and strongly angular ridgelines are common to the rating unit. Also in evidence are steep talus slopes characterized by sharp, broken boulders.

The vegetation in the unit is somewhat sparse and is dominated by pinyon and juniper though cottonwoods, willow, and birch are present along the water courses and isolated ponderosa pines are also present.

Chapman Lake is in the western portion of the unit and is visually interesting.

There is a good deal of development present. Many residences, trailers, and power lines disrupt the natural character of the landscape. The nearby mountains add a positive influence to the unit as adjacent scenery.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3-steep massive cliffs
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4
3	Water	5	3	0	3-reservoir
4	Color	5	3	1	4-colorful rock strata
5	Influence	5	3	0	5-mountains
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	3
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	-2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 20 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33

Class B 12-18

Class C 11 or Less

SQRU 032

Final Ratin A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 12/15/78

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 033-Perrins Peak

Film: Roll # 6 Frame # 36
7 7-8, 20

Time of Day 12 noon

Weather clear

Landscape Character: Mountains

General Narrative: This is an area of rugged though somewhat rounded mountainous terrain which rises to elevations of up to 8682 feet.

Local erosional patterns have created a number of interesting landforms. Most notable are the columnar Twin Buttes which rise to 7737 feet.

The area is vegetated with coniferous vegetation dominated by Ponderosa Pine with occasional stands of pinyon and juniper present at the lower elevations.

A radio tower is present atop Perrins Peak and though it is easily visible it is not an overwelming visual distraction.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	4-mountainous
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	4
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU 033

Final Rating B

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 16 = ____
A, B, or C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 12/14/78

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) EB

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 034-Lightner Creek

Film: Roll # 7 Frame # 1-5

Time of Day 3:30 p.

Weather sunny

Narrow Valley

Landscape Character:

General Narrative: This is an extensive drainage system which flows east into the Animas River. It is located directly west of Durango, serving as a transportation corridor for Highway 160. The unit is a series of deeply incised canyons with steep walls rising to as much as 800 feet above the canyon floor and exposing many layers of colorful sedimentary deposits. Horizontal bands of rock ranging in color from light and dark greys to yellow ochres are displayed throughout the area. Diverse vegetative communities inhabit the many creeks draining the area and include large cottonwoods, aspens, mountain maple and dense stands of oak brush, with spruce, pine and juniper on the steeper slopes. Resistant outcrops have been sculptured in adjacent areas. Twin Buttes, Barnroof Point, Smelter Mountain and Perrins Peak all contribute to scenic enhancement of the canyons. Some unfavorable development has penetrated the canyon outside Durango and some mining along Highway 160 in side canyons somewhat depreciate the visual scenery.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3-outcrops
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4-extensive
3	Water	5	3	0	3-many creeks
4	Color	5	3	1	4-diverse
5	Influence	5	3	0	3-area to east
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0-balanced

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 18 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33
Class B 12-18
Class C 11 or Le

SQRU 034
Final R B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FOR

District Montrose

Date 12/14/78

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 035-La Plata River Terrace

Film: Roll # Frame #

Time of Day 2:30 p.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Broad Valley

General Narrative: This SQRU is characterized by an expanse of open, relatively flat land which is vegetated primarily by low tufts of sagebrush and isolated, intermittently occurring stands of pinyon and juniper.

On the basis of its constituent components this rating unit is visually uninteresting on all counts with the exception of adjacent scenery. The La Plata Mountains are a dominant visual element here, as they are throughout much of the planning unit, and they significantly enhance the beauty of this particular rating unit.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	1
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	2
5	Influence	5	3	0	4-La Plata Mountains
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 11 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33

Class B 12-18

Class C 11 or L

SQRU 035

Final C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FOR

District Montrose

Date 12/14/78

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 036-Ridges Basin

Film: Roll # 6 Frame # 29, 30, 31

Time of Day 2:00 p.

Weather sunny

Basin

Landscape Character:

General Narrative: The Ridges Basin is a wide and open basin located along the course of Basin Creek. It has a rather smooth and rolling character and is enclosed by larger hills. An extensive cover of sagebrush dominates the vegetative community here while some juniper are scattered along the fringe. Basin Creek is not a prominent feature here and the color in the unit is rather subtle and muted. A transmission line passes along the northern edge of the unit but is not a very distracting feature.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1-low, smooth
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	1-low, diversity
3	Water	5	3	0	1-not dominant
4	Color	5	3	1	2-muted
5	Influence	5	3	0	2-mostly enclosed
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1-common
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1-minor

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 9 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33

Class B 12-18

Class C 11 or L

SQRU 036

Final R C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FOR

District Montrose

Planning Unit Durango

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 037-Wildcat

Film: Roll # 6 Frame # 26-28, 30-33

Date 12/14/78

Evaluator(s) PG, EB

Time of Day

Weather

Landscape Character: Rolling Hills

General Narrative: The terrain in this unit is characterized by rounded hilltops which slope gradually into u-shaped valleys. The hilltops generally stand about 200 feet above the units drainage courses and the vegetation along the slopes is composed of a mix of species which includes ponderosa pine, pinyon pine and juniper. The lower slopes tend to be dominated by oak brush and sage. Willow, mountain maple, and cottonwood are apparent along the drainages. The diversity of the vegetation adds varied color, texture, and form to the landscape.

As is true of the majority of the Durango Planning Unit as a whole, the La Plata Mountains are the dominant visual element and add greatly to the overall scenic quality.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2-hills and valleys
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	1-not dominant
4	Color	5	3	1	3-seasonal contrasts
5	Influence	5	3	0	4-La Plata Mountains
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 14 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33
Class B 12-18
Class C 11 or L

SQRU 037
Final R B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FOR

District Montrose

Date 12/14/78

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) PG, EB

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 038-Cherry Gulch/Hay Gulch

Film: Roll # 6 Frame # 1,13,14,18-22
7 7-9, 11-13

Time of Day 3:00 p.m.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Rolling Hills

General Narrative: Rounded to angular hills are the most characteristic land form in this unit. The area is somewhat heavily dissected in valley drainages and consequently there is a great deal of topographic variation.

Exposed outcrop areas exhibit weathered sedimentary strata ranging in color from dark gray shales to tan and reddish sandstones.

The hills in this unit are more densely vegetated than those in unit 037 which lies to the south. Ponderosa Pine is the dominant conifer locally and juniper is intermixed with it along the sideslopes. Small groves of aspen are present along some of the drainage courses and cottonwood, willow, and mountain maple were noted here as well.

A prominent radio tower, and several sets of transmission lines are present but do not greatly disrupt the visual continuity of the landscape.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3-hills and valleys
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	1-not dominant
4	Color	5	3	1	3-seasonal contrasts
5	Influence	5	3	0	4-La Plata
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 16 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality
Classification

Class A 19-33
Class B 12-18
Class C 11 or

SQRU 038
Final R B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FOR

District Montrose

Date 12/14/78

Planning Unit Durango

Evaluator(s) PG, EB

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 039-La Plata River

Film: Roll # 6 Frame # 11-12, 23-25

7 9-10

Time of Day 11:00 a.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character:

River Valley

General Narrative: This broad valley is bisected by both the La Plata River and State Highway 140. The land here is flat to gently sloping and is bounded to the east and west by low rolling hillsides One of the more interesting visual features of this unit is its dense vegetative cover of cottonwood, pine, juniper, sagebrush, and willow. The vegetation adds a great deal of color the unit and provides a variety of animal habitats.

Although the vegetation in the valley is visually interesting, the nearby La Plata Mountains are the areas's dominant scenic element.

Several minor cultural modifications were noted within the unit including a travel pit, the CSU San Juan Experimental Station, and scattered dwellings which extend north and south from Hesperus. None of the modifications detract strongly from the visual strength of the natural landscape and the overall scenic quality of this valley has received a high rating.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3-dense and varied
3	Water	5	3	0	3-La Plata River
4	Color	5	3	1	3-rich variety
5	Influence	5	3	0	4-La Plata Mountains
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 16 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33

Class B 12-18

Class C 11 or Le

SQRU 039

Final R B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FOR

District Montrose

Planning Unit Durango

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 040-Mesa

Film: Roll # 6 Frame # 13-17

Date 12/14/78

Evaluator(s) PG, EB

Time of Day 11:45 a.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Mesa

General Narrative: This rating unit is comprised of an area of very flat land which is part of an extensive area of high (7400-7600 feet) tablelands which slope gradually to the south and extend well beyond the southern boundary of the Durango planning unit.

To the north, the land grades into a network of hills and valleys. It is difficult to accurately delineate the precise boundary between the two areas and the boundary line, as it appears on the Scenic Quality Rating Unit Map, represents the best estimation of the evaluators.

The land is vegetated primarily with a widespread, continuous cover of sagebrush and grasses interspersed with stands of juniper and pinon pine.

The uninterrupted, horizontal line and smooth flat form of the land do not stimulate much visual interest, but the rugged La Plata Mountains frame the area and significantly enhance its scenic quality, adding both color and dramatically contrasting form to the landscape.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1-flat tablelands
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	1-little diversity
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	2-muted
5	Influence	5	3	0	4-La Plata Mountains
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2-nothing significant

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 11 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33

Class B 12-1

Class C 11 or

SQRU	Final
040	C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FOR

District Montrose

Date 12/14/78

Planning Unit Durango /Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 041-Cherry Creek Canyon

Film: Roll # 6 Frame # 4-8

Time of Day 9:45 a.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Canyon

General Narrative: This is a steep-walled, relatively wide canyon whose flat floor is bounded by 400-500 foot walls. Large, blocky, banded sedimentary outcrops are frequent along the sideslopes.

Vegetation is quite diverse, consisting of Ponderosa Pine and juniper along the upper slopes and pinyon and juniper along the lower slopes. Cottonwood oak brush and grasses follow the course of Cherry Creek as it meanders through the canyon.

The steep canyon walls lend a sense of enclosure to the unit and screen out most of the adjacent scenery. Occasional vistas of surrounding peaks in the La Plata Range are available where the canyon opens up, mostly to the north of the canyon.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3 -steep canyon
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3 -diverse
3	Water	5	3	0	2
4	Color	5	3	1	4-vegetation & outcrops
5	Influence	5	3	0	1-mostly enclosed
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 16 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33

Class B 12-18

Class C 11 or L

SQRU 041

Final R B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FOR

District Montrose

Date 12/14/78

Planning Unit Durango/Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 042-Thompson Park

Film: Roll # 6 Frame # 2-3, 9-10

Time of Day 10:15 a.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character:

Park

General Narrative: This is a small, wide park located along the course of Cherry Creek. It is largely flat but also has some very low rolling hills. The vegetative community is dominated primarily by a cover of grasses with small isolated stands of pines and junipers along the fringe of the valley. Cherry Creek meanders through the unit. It is deeply entrenched and tends to stay close to the rolling hills which bound the valley to the east. There is little riparian vegetation except for some clumps of small willows. Pastoral agrarian modification has enhanced the scenic quality of this valley. It appears to serve mostly as a grazing pasture for cattle and horses. Several old and interesting barns are found here, but it is the rugged peaks of the La Plata Mountains that dominate the scenic quality of this valley.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1-flat
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2-little diversity
3	Water	5	3	0	2-not dominant
4	Color	5	3	1	2-muted
5	Influence	5	3	0	5-La Plata Mountains
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1-common
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2-favorable

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 15 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or L

SQRU 042

Final R B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FOR

DURANGO

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification 001 - Lemon Dam & Reservoir

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	2	1

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	1	H	M		

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 4 Frame # 6

Time of day 9:30 a Weather sunny

Evaluator KVM, MF

Type

(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score

(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential

(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success

(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).

Lemon Dam is not a major negative cultural intrusion. It is infrequently seen from the roadway below the dam due to adjacent existing vegetation. Vegetative screening would be desired to eliminate these short duration views in addition to protecting existing vegetation. Planting vegetation in a random fashion adjacent to the roadway paralleling in reservoir would help reduce views of the dam when water levels are low.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

DURANGO

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Transmission Line and Substation - 002

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	2	7

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	2	M	M	M	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 4 Frame # 30, 32

Time of day 12:00 Weather sunny

Evaluator MF, KVM, CJJ

Type

(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score

(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential

(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success

(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).
This substation and transmission lines adjacent to the highway reduce the visual quality somewhat because they are a focal point for motorist driving along State Highway 160. Vegetative screening would help reduce the visual impact, but not entirely.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

DURANGO

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Water Pipe - 003

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	2	7

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	3	H	M	L	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 4 Frame # 31

Time of day 12:00 Weather sunny & clear

Evaluator MF, KVM, CJJ

Type

(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score

(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential

(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success

(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).

This water pipe is much like a gateway over state highway 160. It is definitely a focal point which cannot be overlooked by those who drive the route. Its sharp contrast against the sky reduces the scenic quality along the highway. Little could be done to reduce the impact other than elimination.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

DURANGO

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Transmission Line - 004

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	2	2

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	4	M	M	H	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 4 Frame # 12

Time of day 10:00 a Weather clear

Evaluator MF, CJ, KVM

Type
(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score
(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential
(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success
(8) H - Fairly certain contrast can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).

These wooden utility poles of various types are located adjacent to the roadway and in the valley floor. It does attract attention, although these could be relocated further from the roadway and situated in the dense coniferous forest.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

DURANGO

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Radio Tower - 005

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	3	8

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	5	L	M	L	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 6 Frame # 1

Time of day 11:00 a Weather sunny

Evaluator KVM, MF

Type

(4) 1 - land and/or water

2 - vegetation

3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score

(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.

M - The contrast begins to dominate.

H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential

(7) M - modification

E - elimination

Potential for Success

(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.

M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.

L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).

The radio tower rises prominently and is easily visible from many areas within the planning unit. The tower contrasts strongly with the surrounding landscape, and short of elimination, little can be done in respect to reducing the contrast.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

DURANGO

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Mine - 006

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	3	4

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
1	0	0	6	M	M	H	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 7 Frame # 14

Time of day 11:30 Weather sunny

Evaluator PG, EB

Type

(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score

(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential

(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success

(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).

The mining activities in this area have disrupted the form of the land and disturbed indigenous vegetation. A reclamation program can be instituted upon termination of extractive operations and the contrast can be eliminated.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

DURANGO

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Substation - 007

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	3	7

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	7	M	M	L	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 6 Frame # 32

Time of day 3:00 p. Weather clear

Evaluator PG, EB

Type
(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score
(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential
(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success
(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).
The substation's hard rectilinear lines and shiny metallic color do not blend harmoniously with the surrounding environment. Only thru elimination of the substation can the contrast be significantly reduced.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

TABLE 8

USE VOLUME DATA SUMMARY
(Durango Planning Unit)

KEY OBSERVATION POINT	LOCATION	VOLUME
U.S. Hwy. 550	--	High
U.S. Hwy. 160	--	High
State Rte. 140	--	High
State Rte. 151	--	High
State Rte. 172	--	High
Los Pinos River Road	Bayfield to Vallecito Res.	High
Spring Gulch Road	Spring Gulch	High
Florida River Road	Loma Linda to North Lemon Reservoir	High
North Fork Texas Creek Rd.	North Fork Texas Creek	Moderate
Rules Hill Road	U.S. 160 to Columbus	Moderate
Wallace Gulch Road	Wallace Gulch	Moderate
Horse Gulch Road	Horse Gulch	Moderate
Upper Animas River Road	East Side of Animas River North Durango	High
Lower Animas River Road	West Side of Animas River South Durango	High
Junction Creek Road	Junction Creek	High
Ridges Basin Road	Ridges Basin	Moderate
Wildcat Canyon Road	Fort Lewis to Durango	High
Breen Road	Breen to Wildcat Canyon Road	High
Lightner Creek Road	Lightner Creek	High
Mayday Road	U.S. Hwy. 160 to Mayday	High
Hay Gulch Road	Hay Gulch	Moderate
Cherry Creek Road	Cherry Creek	Moderate

VISUAL SENSITIVITY - USER ATTITUDES

OVERVIEW

A visual sensitivity workshop was held for the Durango and Chromo Planning Units on Friday, January 26 at 10:00 AM in the Fairgrounds Extension Building in Durango. Of the 39 individuals contacted, 10 participated. A list of those invited and/or attending is shown in Table 9. Heavy snow and high winds the morning of the workshop may have accounted for the low turn out. Those who did attend were felt to be a representative cross-section of citizen interest group, industry and agency interests in the study area.

Mr. Jerry Kendrick, Area Manager opened the workshop with an introduction which included the relationship of this workshop to the overall Area planning effort. Mr. Bill Bottomly, State Office Landscape Architect and COAR for this Project then presented an overview of the Bureau's inventory and decision making approach which considers the values of all resource inputs. Mr. Bottomly stressed further that this workshop is concerned only with visual resources and, as such, is only one aspect of the overall planning effort. The remainder of the workshop was presented and facilitated by Wirth Associates.

All 10 of the workshop data sheets submitted were considered valid and used in the analysis. Of the 18 total rating units in the Durango Planning Unit, 6 rated high after tabulation and analysis, 12 rated moderate and none rated low.

High ratings were given to Upper Los Pinos River (#17), Sloping Ridge (#19), (including Animas City Mountain and portions of Missionary Ridge) Lemon Reservoir (#21), Los Animas River North (#24), Junction Creek Canyon (#25), and Perins Peak (#26). High ratings for these areas would be expected since they are typically areas wherein water plays a dominant role or are important, widely recognized local landmarks near the city of Durango.

The units rating moderate sensitivity include a wide range of landscape characteristics from broad flat valleys and rolling hills to dissected canyon country. Land use ranges from highly altered to near natural. All ratings however, were reviewed by Area Office personnel and judged to be an accurate representation of local sensitivity.

The absence of low ratings was felt by Area Office personnel to reflect the relatively high degree of sensitivity of residents of the Durango area.

TABLE 9

DURANGO/CHROMO WORKSHOP INVITEES LIST

Al Bishop
Dolores Chamber of Commerce
(did not attend)

Rod Blacker
Four Courners Env. Research Inst.
(participated)

Carl A. Brown
(did not attend)

Joe Brown
(did not attend)

Charles R. Butler
(did not attend)

Christopher Chavez
Archuleta County Commissioner
(did not attend)

Gloria Childress
(did not attend)

Patrick Conley
La Plata County Commissioner
(did not attend)

Roy Craig
(did not attend)

W. H. Diestelkamp
Archuleta County Commissioner
(did not attend)

Bryce Dunscomb
Colorado State Forest Service
(participated)

Glen Edmonds
Pagosa Springs Sun
(did not attend)

Preston Ellsworth
(participated)

Paris Engler
(did not attend)

Betty Feazel
(did not attend)

Anthony Ferdinando
(participated)

Elva Fox
Durango Bird Club
(participated)

Milton Fuller
(did not attend)

Robert A. Gray
(did not attend)

Art Gresh
Colorado Division of Wildlife
(attended, did not participate)

Joe Grinnan
Shell Oil
(did not attend)

Robert Helmick
PBR, Regional Planning
(participated)

Bob Leid
Durango Chamber of Commerce
(did not attend)

Jim Mayfield
Colorado Highway Department
(participated)

Dave McHenry
San Juan National Forest
(participated)

Erwin Means
LaPlata County Commissioner
(did not attend)

Wayne Moorehead
(did not attend)

DURANGO/CHROMO (continued)

Meg Nagel
Colorado Open Space Council
(did not attend)

William K. Nielson
(did not attend)

Carroll Peterson
San Juan Ecological Society
(did not attend)

Maxine Peterson
Durango Mayor
(participated)

Sally Ranney
American Wilderness Alliance
(did not attend)

Phillips B. Reddick
Animas Regional Planning
(did not attend)

Harold E. Schutz
Archuleta County Commissioner
(did not attend)

R. T. Scott
la Plata County Commissioner
(did not attend)

John Smith
King Coal Mine
(did not attend)

Albert Spencer
(did not attend)

Nancy Strait
Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce
(did not attend)

Edwin Zink
(participated)

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT DURANGO

Rating Units	LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #15	HIGH	P	
os Pinos River V.		HP	2
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	MED.	MP	5
	LOW	LP	1
		R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	6	2	1	3	2	2	2
▒	2	3	6	2	4	4	3
▓		3	1	3	2	2	3

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The "moderate" level of protection indicated correlates well with the "moderate" level of reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT DURANGO

Rating Units	Landscape Values		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #16	HIGH	P	
Rolling Hills	HIGH	HP	1
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	MED.	MP	5
	LOW	LP	3
	LOW	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	3	2		1		2	
░	5	3	6	5	4	3	3
▓	1	4	3	3	5	4	6

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: A weak "moderate" rating is indicated for both the desired level of protection and the reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ░ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT DURANGO

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #17
pper Los Pinos River

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	6
MED.	MP	2
LOW	LP	1
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
	H	M	M	H	M	H	M
☐	6	3	3	5	1	4	3
▒	3	4	5	2	6	2	3
▓		2	1	2	2	3	3

Final Rating: HIGH

Rationale: The overwhelming high rating for Desired Mgmt. Class was the basis for resolving the moderate/high ratings for landscape change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT DURANGO

Rating Units

Workshop Rating # 18
Unit: Jarrow Ridge/Valley

Scenic Quality
Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	1
	HP	3
MED.	MP	5
LOW	LP	1
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	7	3	3	3	2	3	1
▒	2	2	6	5	5	4	4
▓	1	4	1	1	2	2	4

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The "moderate" rating for Desired Management Class correspond well with the overall moderate rating for reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT DURANGO

Rating Units		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #19 loping Ridge	HIGH P	1
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	HIGH HP	4
	MED. MP	3
	LOW LP	1
	LOW R	

LANDSCAPE VALUES

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	7	5	3	4	2	3	2
▒	1	2	6	4	6	5	4
▓	1	2	1	1	1	1	3

Final Rating: HIGH

Rationale: The high sensitivity ascribed to this area by BLM is the basis for resolving the moderate/high ratings to high.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT DURANGO

Workshop Rating Unit: #20 orida River Valley

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

Rating Units	Landscape Values		Desired Mgmt. Class
	HIGH	P	
	HIGH	HP	3
	MED.	MP	5
	LOW	LP	1
	LOW	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	8	5	3	2	2	4	2
▨	1	1	5	6	5	4	3
▩		3	1	1	2	1	4

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The "moderate" ratings for Desired Mgmt. Class correlate well with the moderate ratings overall for reaction to landscape change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT DURANGO

Rating Units	Landscape Values		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #21 emon Reservoir	HIGH	P	2
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):		HP	4
	MED.	MP	3
	LOW	LP	
		R	1

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐ 9	☐ 3	☐ 6	☐ 6	☐ 5	☐ 8	☐ 4
▒ 1	▒ 2	▒ 2	▒ 4	▒ 4	▒ 1	▒ 4
▓	▓ 4	▓ 2	▓	▓ 1	▓ 1	▓ 2

Final Rating: HIGH

Rationale: A "high" level of protection & "high" adverse reaction to change is indicated for Lemon Reservoir.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT DURANGO

Workshop Rating Unit: #22 Broad Valley

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES	Rating Units	Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	1
	HP	2
MED.	MP	5
LOW	LP	2
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
6	3	2	3	2	4	2
4	3	6	6	4	4	3
	3	2	1	4	2	5

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: A "moderate" overall rating is indicated for both the desired level of protection and reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT DURANGO

Workshop Rating Unit: #23 s Animas River (SOUTH)

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES	Rating Units	Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
HIGH	HP	3
MED.	MP	5
LOW	LP	2
LOW	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	7	5	2	4	2	5	2
░	3	2	5	2	3	2	1
▓		3	3	3	4	2	6

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The moderate ratings for Desired Mgmt. Class correlate well with the moderate overall ratings for reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ░ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT DURANGO

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #24
os Animas River
(NORTH)

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	2
	HP	4
MED.	MP	3
LOW	LP	1
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
□	8	7	6	5	4	5	3
▒	2	2	2	3	3	3	2
▓		1	2	1	2	1	4

Final Rating: HIGH

Rationale: Both a "high" level of protection and adverse reaction are indicated by participants.

* □ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT DURANGO

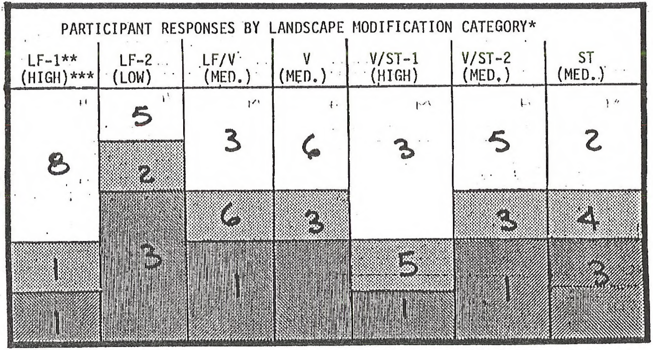
Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #25
nction Creek Canyon

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
HIGH	HP	7
MED.	MP	3
LOW	LP	
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*



Final Rating: HIGH

Rationale: a strong "high" level of protection is indicated by participants while the reaction to change responses indicate a weak "high" adverse reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT DURANGO

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #26
Perrins Peak
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	3
	HP	4
MED.	MP	2
LOW	LP	1
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	9	7	5	5	3	5	5
▒		1	4	4	5	3	3
▓	1	2	1	1	2	2	2

Final Rating: HIGH

Rationale: A high level of protection is indicated for the Perin's Peak rating unit. This is confirmed by the high adverse response to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT DURANGO

Rating Units	LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: # 27 ightner Creek Canyon	HIGH	P	
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	HIGH	HP	2
	MED.	MP	7
	LOW	LP	1
	LOW	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
	H	M/H	H	M	H	H	M
☐	7	3	5	3	4	6	
▒	3	4	3	5	4	1	6
▩		3	2	1	1	2	3

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The strong moderate rating for Desired Mgmt. Change were used as the basis for resolving the moderate/high reactions to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

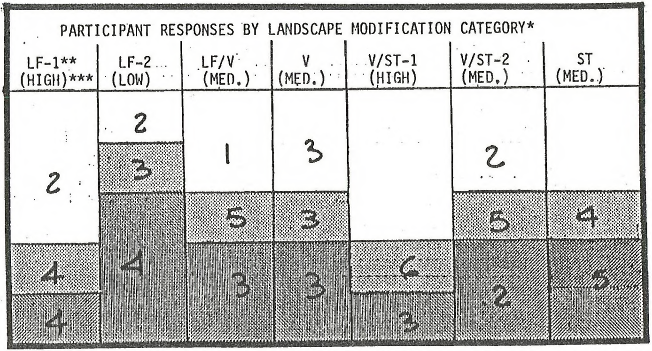
*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT DURANGO

Rating Units		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: # 28 erry Gulch/ ay Gulch	P	
	HP	3
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	MP	4
	LP	3
	R	

LANDSCAPE VALUES: HIGH (P, HP); MED. (MP); LOW (LP, R)



Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: Both a "moderate" level of protection & "moderate" reaction to change are indicated.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT DURANGO

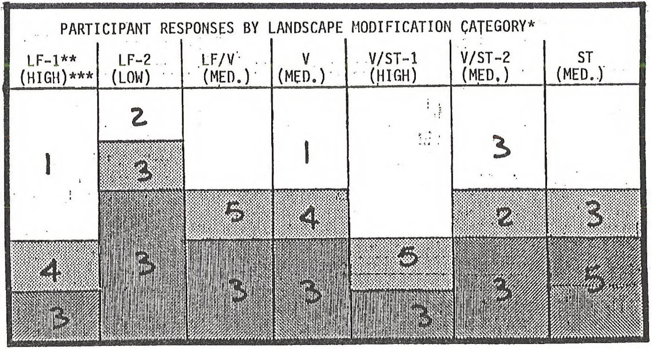
Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: # 29

rrace

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
HIGH	HP	
MED.	MP	7
LOW	LP	2
LOW	R	



Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: Moderate ratings are indicated overall for both the desired level of protection and the reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT DURANGO

Rating Units	LANDSCAPE VALUES	Desired Mgmt. Class	
Workshop Rating Unit: #30 La Plata River	HIGH	P	
	HIGH	HP	5
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	MED.	MP	4
	LOW	LP	1
	LOW	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	4	4	3	3	3	5	3
▨	6	3	6	3	4	2	2
▩		3	1	3	2	2	4

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The final "moderate" rating was resolved from the high/moderate participant ratings by BLM because it was felt most appropriate considering the landscape character, & management concerns.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT DURANGO

Workshop Rating Unit: #31
erry Creek Canyon

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

Rating Units	LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
	HIGH	P	
		HP	2
	MED.	MP	4
	LOW	LP	3
		R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	3	1		1		4	
▒	5	3	6	4	6	2	4
▓		4	2	3	2	2	4

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The "moderate" ratings for Desired Mgmt. Class correlates well with the "moderate" ratings for reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT DURANGO

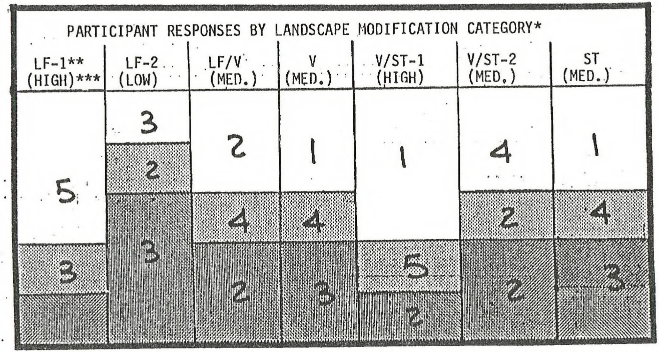
Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: # 32

hompson Park

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	3
MED.	MP	4
LOW	LP	2
	R	



PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	5	3	2	1	1	4	1
▨	3	2	4	4	5	2	4
▦		3	2	3	2	2	3

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: Moderate ratings are given overall to both the desired level of protection and the reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▦ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

SPECIFIC ISSUES, PROJECTS OR LANDS OF CONCERN TO YOUR GROUP OR AGENCY:

In the following space please indicate any issues or concerns your agency or group has about visual resource management in this BLM Resource Area. Specific projects, lands or issues can be addressed. Indicate on the base maps provided the location of specific lands you are concerned about. Use a code letter/word or other identifiable designation referenced in your narrative.

Participant P. ELLSWORTH

Date JAN 27, '79

SAN JAUN CHAMA DIVERSION AND ITS EFFECT ON. BIOLOGICAL NEEDS OF THE RIVER. # 2 # 4

ANIMAS LA PLATA PROJECT AND IT VISUAL + ECONOMIC + WILDLI EFFECTS ON # 23 # 22 # 27 #29 # 30

SPECIFIC ISSUES, PROJECTS OR LANDS OF CONCERN TO YOUR GROUP OR AGENCY:

In the following space please indicate any issues or concerns your agency or group has about visual resource management in this BLM Resource Area. Specific projects, lands or issues can be addressed. Indicate on the base maps provided the location of specific lands you are concerned about. Use a code letter/word or other identifiable designation referenced in your narrative.

Participant J.H. Mayfield

Date 1-26-79

The Colo. Div. of Hiways is concern about any land use that impacts transportation. If that impact occurs there must be the abili to expand transportation facilities to handle the transportation require ment.

SPECIFIC ISSUES, PROJECTS OR LANDS OF CONCERN TO YOUR GROUP OR AGENCY:

In the following space please indicate any issues or concerns your agency or group has about visual resource management in this BLM Resource Area. Specifi projects, lands or issues can be addressed. Indicate on the base maps provide the location of specific lands you are concerned about. Use a code letter/wor or other identifiable designation referenced in your narrative.

Participant Anthony [illegible]

Date Jan 26, 1979

area 26
area 22
Designated as wildlife refuge area's and would like to see these preserved as such.

Final Visual Sensitivity Levels

OVERVIEW

After analysis, approximately two-thirds of the Durango Planning Unit resulted in a high overall visual sensitivity rating. This is due to the large number of high volume roads combined with lands of moderate and high user volume (user attitudes).

With two exceptions, the moderate ratings were the result of a combination of moderate use volume and moderate user sensitivity. The Vasburg Pike/Rules Hill area, Horse Gulch, Ridges Basin, Cherry Creek and Hay Gulch are the result of these conditions. The Alkali Gulch/Spring Gulch and western county line areas also resulted in a final moderate rating but through a combination of moderate user attitude and low use volume.

Distance Zones

OVERVIEW

Key observation points from which Distance Zones were determined for the Durango Planning Unit are listed in Table 8.

Because of the high number of roads criss-crossing the planning unit nearly all lands are within the Foreground-Middleground Zone. One large Seldom Seen area is located in the southwestern portion of the study area which includes Alkali Gulch, Roberts Gulch and Spring Gulch. As the names would indicate, this is a large area of broken gulch country without major access routes. Another significant area of Seldom Seen land exists on the western edge of the planning unit above Cherry Creek. This is an upland area unseen from roads

SACRED MOUNTAIN P. U.

SACRED MOUNTAIN PLANNING UNIT

GENERAL SETTING

Sacred Mountain Planning Unit contains 702,000 square acres. Within broad physiographic divisions this unit is part of the Colorado Plateau - Canyon Lands landscape marked by young to mature canyoned plateaus and high relief. The planning unit itself is roughly triangular in shape with one side extending northwest-southeast along the 7500'-8000' slopes paralleling the Dolores River Canyon. One side of this triangle runs due north-south along the Utah-Colorado line, the other side roughly east-west from Utah to the La Plata County line. The apex of this triangle at the southwest corner of the planning unit is the point of lowest elevation at 5200'. The planning unit falls roughly 2500' northeast to southwest and a large number of canyons are oriented in this direction. With the exceptions of Weber and Menefee Mountains at 8200', located in the extreme southeast corner of the unit, the area contains no high relief. The planning unit triangle can best be visualized as a large consistently inclined plane furrowed by a large number of canyons draining southwest.

The planning unit is further divided into two major landforms; valleys and canyons. The largest valley follows the high slope along the Dolores River and although it extends northwest-southeast it is inclined southwest and drains in that direction. Two smaller valleys, the Montezuma and Mancos, are oriented and drain northeast to southwest. The Dolores River canyon, largest in the unit, has cut as deep as 2000' in places as it parallels the large valley running northwest-southeast. Hundreds of other canyons from 20 to 1000 feet deep begin in the higher elevations to the northeast and enlarge as they drain southwest.

As indicated, above the Dolores River is the major watercourse within the planning unit. One other river, the Mancos, meanders through the Mancos Valley in the southeast and is of minor visual importance. A very large number of intermittent creeks gradually deepen the many canyons, but again they are of small visual consequence. Several moderately sized reservoirs (one square mile or less) are found in the north-northeast area of the unit and include Narraguinnep, Totten, Puett, Summit and Jackson Gulch Reservoirs. These reservoirs are active recreational areas which draw a number of local residents and create inherent and recreational related visual interest. Several large irrigation ditches criss-cross the unit but are minor visual elements.

Cortez, located southcentrally, is roughly four times larger than the three communities of Dove Creek in the north, Dolores in the northcentral, and Mancos in the southeast, all of which are similar in size. Several other very small communities, Arriola, Lebanon, Lewis and Roundup Junction, mark crossroads within the large valley, an extensive area developed with agricultural and ranch interests.

Major arterials include U.S. Route 160 running west from Durango in the adjacent planning unit, through Mancos and into Cortez before turning south then west out of the unit. U.S. Route 666 (State 106 and 789) runs northwest from Cortez through Dove Creek into Utah. State Route 32 also runs from Cortez west into Utah. State Route 145 leaves Cortez and passes through Dolores before turning northeast.

Contiguous to the planning unit on the southern boundary, between Cortez on the west and Mancos on the east, lies Mesa Verde National Park rising 2000 feet above the adjacent Montezuma and Mancos valleys. This steep sided, rugged, tree covered mesa commands visual attention from U.S. Route 160 and most of the planning unit, and from archaeological and historical view points as well. Mesa Verde ("green table") is notable for the finest cliff dwellings in the United States which were occupied by prehistoric Indians until nearly 1300 A.D. Several smaller but important ancient sites are included in the Hovenweep National Monuments and Yucca House National Monument. The Sacred Mountain Planning Unit is noted for its significant historic/archaeological areas.

SQRU GENERAL LANDSCAPE TYPES & SUMMARY
PLANNING UNIT: SACRED MOUNTAIN

GENERAL TYPE KEY

Mountains
Ridges and Narrow Valleys
Canyons
Parks
Mesas
Rolling Hills
Broad Valleys
River Valleys
Basins
Reservoirs

SQRU NO.	NAME	GENERAL TYPE
041	Cherry Creek Canyon	Canyon
042	Thompson Park	Park
043	County Line Mountains	Mountains
044	Weber Canyon	Canyon
045	Weber/Menefee Mountains	Mountains
046	Mancos Valley	Broad Valley
047	Jackson Gulch	Rolling Hills
048	Jackson Reservoir	Reservoir
049	North Cortez Hills	Rolling Hills
050	West Fork Ridge	Ridge
051	Stinking Springs Canyon	Canyon
052	Cash Canyon	Canyon
053	Hartman Draw	Ridges & Valleys
054	Summit/Puett Reservoirs	Reservoirs
055	Lost Canyon	Canyon
056	Haycamp Mesa	Mesa
057	Dolores Mesa	Mesa
058	Lower Dolores Mesa	River Valley
059	North Rim Hills	Rolling Hills
060	Montezuma Valley	Broad Valley
061	Totten Reservoir	Reservoir
062	Yellow Jacket Canyon	Canyon
063	McElmo Creek	Narrow Valley
064	Hamilton Mesa	Mesa
065	Upper Yellow Jacket Canyon	Canyon
066	Cross Canyon	Canyon
067	Negro Canyon	Canyon
068	Cajon Mesa	Mesa
069	Squaw Canyon	Canyon
070	Alkalai Canyon	Canyon
071	Mountain Sheep Point	Canyon
072	Sacred Mountain Valley	Broad Valley
073	Dolores River Canyon	Canyon
074	Narraguinnep Reservoir	Reservoir
075	Goodman Canyon	Canyon

DISTRICT: MONTROSE

RESOURCE AREA: SAN JUAN

PLANNING UNIT: SACRED MOUNTAIN

SQRU		RATING CRITERIA							TOTAL	
NO.	NAME	LF	V	W	C	AS	S	CM	NO.	SQR
041	Cherry Creek Canyon	3	3	2	4	1	1	2	16	A
042	Thompson Park	1	2	2	2	5	1	2	15	B
043	County Line Mountains	3	3	0	3	3	1	2	15	B
044	Weber Canyon	3	3	1	3	3	1	2	16	B
045	Weber/Menefee Mountain	3	3	0	3	3	1	2	15	B
046	Mancos Valley	1	3	2	3	4	1	1	15	B
047	Jackson Gulch	2	3	2	3	3	1	1	15	B
048	Jackson Reservoir	2	3	5	4	2	2	1	19	A
049	North Cortez	2	3	0	3	3	1	1	13	B
050	West Fork Ridge	2	2	0	1	4	1	2	12	B
051	Stinking Springs	2	3	2	2	0	1	2	12	B
052	Cash Canyon	2	3	0	3	0	1	2	11	C
053	Hartman Draw	2	3	2	4	1	2	1	15	B
054	Puett Summit Reservoir	1	2	5	3	4	2	2	19	A
055	Lost Canyon	3	3	4	3	0	1	2	16	B
056	Haycamp Mesa	2	3	0	2	2	1	0	10	C
057	Dolores Mesa	2	3	0	2	4	1	0	12	B
058	Lower Dolores River	3	4	5	4	0	1	-4	13	B
059	North Rim Hills	2	2	0	1	4	1	2	12	B
060	Montezuma Valley	1	2	1	2	4	1	0	11	C
061	Totten Reservoir	1	3	5	2	4	2	1	18	B
062	Yellow Jacket Canyon	4	2	2	4	1	1	2	16	B
063	McElmo Creek	2	4	3	4	2	1	1	17	B
064	Hamilton Mesa	3	3	1	3	2	1	1	14	B
065	Upper Yellow Jacket	4	3	4	4	0	1	2	18	B
066	Cross Canyon	3	3	4	4	0	1	2	17	B
067	Negro Canyon	2	4	0	3	3	1	1	14	B
068	Canyon Mesa	2	4	0	3	3	1	1	14	B
069	Squaw Canyon	3	3	4	4	0	1	2	17	B
070	Alkali Canyon	2	3	0	3	1	1	2	12	B
071	Mountain Sheep Point	5	3	5	4	0	6	2	25	A
072	Sacred Mountain Valley	1	2	0	2	3	1	1	10	C
073	Dolores River Canyon	4	5	5	4	0	4	1	23	A
074	Narraguinnep Reservoir	2	3	5	4	2	2	1	19	A
075	Goodman Canyon	4	2	1	5	3	5	1	21	A

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Two rating units within the Sacred Mountain Planning Unit, 071 Mountain Sheep Point, and 075 Goodman Canyon were identified as potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) by virtue of the fact that they represent Class A scenery and have received ratings of 5 or 6 in regard to their relative scarcity within the region.

These rating units represent areas of extraordinary scenic quality and require special management attention to insure preservation of the qualities which make them exceptional.

The ratings for these units appear below.

SQRU NO.	NAME	RATING CRITERIA LF	V	W	C	AS	S	CM	TOTAL NO.	SQR
071	Mountain Sheep Point	5	3	5	4	0	6	2	25	A
075	Goodman Canyon	4	2	1	5	3	5	1	21	A

(071) Mountain Sheep Point. This is the largest canyon in this planning unit. The Dolores River has carved this narrow, deep, and often vertical canyon. This area is unique to the planning unit mainly due to its unusual and dramatic landform character.

(075) Goodman Canyon. This unit consists of an unusual landform configuration of U-shaped terraces. The headwalls, 4 to 15 feet in height, range in color from reds at the top to lighter shades at the bottom. These headwalls contrast between the gentle slopes covered with evergreens between terraces and creates great visual interest.

District Montrose

Date 12/14/78

Planning Unit Durango /Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 041-Cherry Creek Canyon

Film: Roll # 6 Frame # 4-8

Time of Day 9:45 a.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Canyon

General Narrative: This is a steep-walled, relatively wide canyon whose flat floor is bounded by 400-500 foot walls. Large, blocky, banded sedimentary outcrops are frequent along the sideslopes.

Vegetation is quite diverse, consisting of Ponderosa Pine and juniper along the upper slopes and pinyon and juniper along the lower slopes. Cottonwood oak brush and grasses follow the course of Cherry Creek as it meanders through the canyon.

The steep canyon walls lend a sense of enclosure to the unit and screen out most of the adjacent scenery. Occasional vistas of surrounding peaks in the La Plata Range are available where the canyon opens up, mostly to the north of the canyon.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3 -steep canyon
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3 -diverse
3	Water	5	3	0	2
4	Color	5	3	1	4-vegetation & outcrops
5	Influence	5	3	0	1-mostly enclosed
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 16 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or L

SQRU	Final R
041	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FOR

District Montrose

Date 12/14/78

Planning Unit Durango /Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 042-Thompson Park

Film: Roll # 6 Frame # 2-3, 9-10

Time of Day 10:15 a.

Weather sunny

Park

Landscape Character:

General Narrative: This is a small, wide park located along the course of Cherry Creek. It is largely flat but also has some very low rolling hills. The vegetative community is dominated primarily by a cover of grasses with small isolated stands of pines and junipers along the fringe of the valley. Cherry Creek meanders through the unit. It is deeply entrenched and tends to stay close to the rolling hills which bound the valley to the east. There is little riparian vegetation except for some clumps of small willows. Pastoral agrarian modification has enhanced the scenic quality of this valley. It appears to serve mostly as a grazing pasture for cattle and horses. Several old and interesting barns are found here, but it is the rugged peaks of the La Plata Mountains that dominate the scenic quality of this valley.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1-flat
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2-little diversity
3	Water	5	3	0	2-not dominant
4	Color	5	3	1	2-muted
5	Influence	5	3	0	5-La Plata Mountains
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1-common
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2-favorable

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 15 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Les
SQRU	Final Rati
042	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 043 - County Line Mts.

Film: Roll # 10 Frame # 3-5

Landscape Character:

Date 1-13-79

Evaluator(s) PG, EB

Time of Day 9:45 a.

Weather sunny

Mountains

General Narrative: This rating unit is characterized by a series of mountains which rise to a height of 8200 feet from the flat valley which surrounds them.

The mountains are capped by resistant rock which has been eroded into a series of ridges and valleys which run down the mountain faces. Several jagged, blocky rock outcroppings are visible along the mountainsides.

The mountains are largely barren along the steep upper slopes though isolated specimens of pinyon, juniper and ponderosa pine to dot the area. Along the lower, gentler slopes, the vegetation becomes quite dense. Scrub Oak appears to be the dominant species in these areas and the texture and color of the specimens add a degree of visual interest to the slopes.

Extensive views of the La Plata Mountains, the adjacent valleys and hills, and the rim of Mesa Verde National Park are available from the unit.

No significant cultural modifications were noted.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 15 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Ratin
043	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 13 January 79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) KVM

MF, DS

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 044 - Weber Canyon

Film: Roll # 10 Frame # 1,2,6-8

13 32-37

Time of Day 2:00 p.

Weather clear

Landscape Character: Canyon

General Narrative: Weber Canyon extends north to south between Weber Mountain (elevation 8065') and Menefee Mountain (elevation 8335') and includes East Canyon extending northeast-southwest immediately east of Menefee Mountain The canyon floor at elevation 6448' is approximately 1900' below the sharp-walled mountains on either side. Intermittent streams flow through both canyons and combine just south of Menefee Mountain. At the north end of Weber Canyon, nearly 5 miles south of the community of Mancos, the canyon opens into a broad valley. The south aspect parallels Mesa Verde and becomes one of a large number of similar canyons.

Pinyon-Juniper is fairly dense along both canyon walls and contrasts pleasantly with the tan and brick-orange colors of the exposed rock.

Retaining much of its naturalness, and enclosing most views, this canyon is very similar to many others within this general area.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	2-generally intermittent
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3-Mesa Verde
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2-natural

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 17 =

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less
SQRU	Final Rating
044	B

A, B, or C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 12/15/78

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 045-Weber, Menefee Mt.

Film: Roll # 8 Frame # 1,2,3,7,8,15,21
35
10 25-27
13

Time of Day 12:00

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Mountains

General Narrative: Menefee and Weber Mountains located in the southeastern corner of this planning unit slope up out of the Mancos Valley and are well defined due to the contrast of these natural landscapes. Both mountains have a series of ridges and narrow valleys that slope steeply down to the valley floor. There are a few isolated rock outcrops that do not significantly increase the scenic quality of this area. Primarily covered with pinyon, juniper and some Ponderosa Pine, intermixed with shrubs and Scrub Oak they are fairly typical of the higher landscapes in this region.

Views are quite extensive in all directions. Panoramas of Mesa Verde National Park, the Broad Valley and Rolling Hills, as well as some of the mountains in the San Juan Range are visible. Although these landscapes influence the scenic quality of this unit, they are seen from all over this planning unit. Radio communication towers are located atop these mountains but are small and not a dominant scenic element. Because there are few roads, the area has not been disturbed by man and is still fairly natural.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 15 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33
Class B 12-18
Class C 11 or Less

SQRU 045
Final Rating B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 12/16/78 and 1/13/79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) KVM EB MF PG CJ

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 046 - Mancos Valley

Film: Roll # 8 Frame # 4,5,9,10,14,15,16,22,23,24,35,36
10 9, 25-27
13 32, 33

Time of Day 10:00 a. 12 noon

Weather clear clear

Landscape Character:

Broad Valley

This SQRU was viewed by two field teams at two different times and the following narrative is a composite of those observations.

General Narrative:

The Mancos Valley is a part of a large drainage system originating in the San Juan Mountains which eroded the landscape and created this valley over time. Defined by the foothills of the La Plata Mountains, Haycamp Mesa, and the Weber and Menefee Mountains, the valley rim contains several cliffs composed largely of basalt which have resisted erosion and display unique formations. Geologically the area is unique.

The vegetation is diverse and contains widely scattered pinon-juniper, ponderosa pine and less dominant stands of cottonwoods, willows and aspen along creeks and the Mancos River. The Mancos River is the main drainage system of the valley but is usually subordinate to geologic formations and is of minor importance.

Towards the community of Mancos on the east, agricultural modification has developed the valley adding favorable qualities of color and seasonal changes with introduced vegetation and crops.

The La Plata Mountains and rims of the Mesa Verde National Park are in immediate view and add appreciably by their massive and vertical character in juxtaposition to the slow rolling valley floor.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1-little relief
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3-good diversity
3	Water	5	3	0	2-not dominant
4	Color	5	3	1	3-some variety
5	Influence	5	3	0	4-La Plata Mtns.
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1-ordinary
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1-minor

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 15 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33
Class B 12-18
Class C 11 or Less

SQRU 046
Final Rating B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1-13-79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) PG, EB

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 047 - Jackson Gulch

Film: Roll # 8 Frame # 6,11-13,17, 25,30

10 10,12,14,25-27

Time of Day 10:15 a.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Rolling Hills

General Narrative: This rating unit is an extensive area of low, rounded, gently rolling hills. Intermittent streams have cut narrow drainage valleys between individual hillsides.

The area is vegetated with very dense, expansive stands of Ponderosa Pine, which range up to 40 or 50 feet in height, and large stands of 3 to 6 foot high Oak brush. Scattered among the ponderosa pines are pinyons and junipers which become more prevalent near the border of the adjacent valley.

The forest cover is broken in many areas by large open expanses of grassland which is used for grazing.

Sweeping, panoramic views of Mesa Verde and Menefee Mountain are common in the unit.

A number of scattered residences and small ranches are located within the area but the only significant intrusion is a transmission line which cuts through the unit from east to west.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2-rolling
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	2-many small ponds
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1-transmission line

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 15 = ____ (A, B, or C)

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less
SQRU	Final Rating
047	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1-13-79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 048 - Jackson Reservoir

Film: Roll # 8 Frame # 18, 19, 20

Time of Day 11:00 a.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Reservoir

General Narrative: Please refer to SQRU 074 Narraguinnep Reservoir, for a narrative description of this rating unit. The two areas are similar to each other.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	5
4	Color	5	3	1	4
5	Influence	5	3	0	2
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	2
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 19 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU 048 Final Rating A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1/13/79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) PG, EB

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 049-Rolling Hills

Film: Roll # 8 Frame #(25-29) - (31-34)
9 30, 31
10 13,19,20,28
11 6,17,18
24-31

Time of Day 10:30 a.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: 13

Rolling Hills

General Narrative: This SQRU is comprised of an expanse of low rolling hills. Though very similar to SQRU 047, Jackson Gulch, this rating unit is characterized by hills which are a bit gentler and a bit less pronounced.

The vegetation here is different as well. The hills here are forested with a dense cover of pinyon and juniper whereas in the Jackson Gulch area, the forest is dominated by Ponderosa Pine.

Oak Brush and open grasslands intermittently break up the forest cover. Much of this landscape is used for grazing.

Mesa Verde's North Rim, Sleeping Ute Mountain, and the La Plata Range are all visible from the unit.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 13 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
049	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 050 - West Fork Ridge

Film: Roll # 10 Frame # 23, 24, 28

Date 1-13-79

Evaluator(s) PG, EB

Time of Day 4:00 p.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Ridge

General Narrative: This ridge is quite similar in character to the low rolling hills which surround it, but it was designated as an individual unit because it is much steeper, stands at an elevation of 7200 feet, and thus rises prominently above the surrounding terrain.

Just below the ridgeline the ridge is largely barren though a dense pinyon-juniper forest covers the lower slopes.

The color in this unit is muted and does not add appreciably to the scenic quality of the unit.

Long range views of Mesa Verde's North Rim and of Sleeping Ute Mountain are available and this moderately enhances this generally uninteresting landscape.

No intrusions were noted in the area.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	1
5	Influence	5	3	0	4
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 17 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
050	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1-13-79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) PG, EB

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 051-Stinking Springs Canyon

Film: Roll # 10 Frame # 21, 22

Time of Day 2:50 p.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Canyon

General Narrative: This rating unit is a very narrow and shallow canyon which is bisected by Stinking Springs Creek. The canyon is bounded by low, somewhat vertically sloping hillsides which rise some 20 or 30 feet above the creek bed.

The hills, which bound the canyon are quite rounded and are forested with a dense cover at 15-20 foot pinyons and junipers, scattered scrub oaks, tufts of sagebrush, and assorted herbaceous species.

The area immediately adjacent to the creek is largely open and vegetated only with scattered clusters of willows.

The canyon walls enclose the viewshed to a great extent and thus the influence of adjacent scenery is negligible within the unit.

Aside from a series of small unobtrusive wooden fences, no significant intrusions were noted.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	2
4	Color	5	3	1	2
5	Influence	5	3	0	0
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 12 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less
SQRU	Final Rati
051	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 11 January 79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) KVM, MF, DS

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 052-Cash Canyon

Film: Roll # 11 Frame # 25
13 30

Time of Day 4:30 p.

Weather heavy overcast

Landscape Character: Canyon

General Narrative: Cash Canyon is a series of drainageways intermittently flowing through low but clearly defined rock walls. Often the canyon walls are only 30'-40' high and few really steep or dramatic landforms exist.

Pinyon-Juniper line the edges of the canyon with willow and other mesic plants in the low wet areas. Much of the natural vegetation is cropped due to active grazing within the canyon.

Few views are apparent; in fact little is really unusual or different about this unit except for the low canyon walls.

The vegetation and color, which includes the tan-brown rock along with the reds and dark greens of the shrubs and trees, composed the most interesting aspect of this area.

Generally free from modifications the area still does not appear "natural" due to the grazing and nearby residences.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	0
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ______ + ______ + ______ = Total 11 = ______
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
052	C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date January 1, 1979

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) MF, KM, DS

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 053- Hartman Draw

Film: Roll # 11 Frame # 10, 21
13 28

Time of Day 2:30 p.

Weather overcast

Landscape Character: Ridges and Narrow Valleys

General Narrative: Intermittent and perennial streams have cut a series of narrow valleys as they drain from the upland rolling hills into Hartman Draw. These narrow valleys have comparatively steep walls which support stands of pinyon and juniper. Small park-like areas dominated by sagebrush mixed with various grasses are found sporadically throughout the rating unit. Small farms with accompanying orchards are found along the southern periphery. Along the stream courses narrow bands of riparian habitat and scattered cottonwoods are found.

These short, narrow valleys comprise an interesting area in contrast to the adjacent lands, especially with respect to texture and color. The white of winter snow, the yellow green of fresh spring leaves on the scattered trees, blossoms on nearby fruit trees, the dark evergreen of pinyon pine and juniper, the bright red twigs of willows, the dull yellow of the grasslands and the golden leaves of cottonwoods in fall all add to the colorful patterns of contrasts in this area.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2-no great relief
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	2-intermittent streams
4	Color	5	3	1	4
5	Influence	5	3	0	1
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	2-fairly common
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1-orchards - Pulp Mill

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU 053

Final Ratin B

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 15 = ____ A, B, or C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1-13-79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) PG, EB

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 054-Summit & Puett Lakes

Film: Roll # 10 Frame # 15, 16

Time of Day 1:30 p.

Weather sunny

Reservoir

Landscape Character:

General Narrative: Summit Lake and Puett Lake are the dominant features within this small, rounded basin.

The lakes are ringed by a dense pinyon-juniper forest, the individual specimens ranging up to 30 feet in height. The forested areas are often broken by extensive areas of open grasslands.

The dense vegetation reduces the extent of the long range views in certain areas of the unit, but panoramic views of Mesa Verde, Sleeping Ute Mountain, and the La Plata Mountains are available throughout most of the area.

The lakes are within close proximity of the road and as such are very accessible to those who might wish to use them for recreational purposes.

The terrain which surrounds the lakes is gently rolling and adds a bit of visual interest to the scene. The area has a pleasing range of color. Contrasts between the vegetation, soil, rock outcroppings, and sky enhance the overall beauty of this area.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1-largely flat
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2-dense
3	Water	5	3	0	5-lakes
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	4-Mesa Verde, Ute Mt.
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	2
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 19 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
054	A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1/11/79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) MF, DS, KVM

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 055-Lost Canyon

Film: Roll # 11 Frame # 23

Time of Day 3:30 p.

Weather overcast

Landscape Character: Canyon

General Narrative: This unit is a narrow canyon with moderately sloping side walls that rise two hundred feet. A few rock outcrops are present and are intermixed between vegetative groupings. Moderate to coarse textures are predominant throughout this canyon giving it a somewhat rugged, and natural appearance.

Lost Creek flows through this canyon in a very curvilinear fashion. Following the stream course is a dense stand of cottonwoods and willows. Pinyon, juniper and scrub oak occupy the side slopes where rock outcrops give way. Color within this canyon is varied from yellows and reds, to light greens, browns, and the blue of the water which all contrast and highlight one another.

A series of different spatial experiences result as one moves throughout this canyon, offering great visual interest within this natural setting. Views outside the planning unit are few, resulting in little influence from adjacent scenery.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	4
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	0
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 16 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33

Class B 12-18

Class C 11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
055	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1/11/79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) KM, MF, DS

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 056-Haycamp Mesa

Film: Roll # 11 Frame # 24

Time of Day 4:00 p.

Weather overcast

Landscape Character: Mesa

General Narrative: Haycamp Mesa is an extensive upland area between Lost Canyon Creek and the Dolores River. Overall the Mesa has relatively minor undulations and no outstanding features. This landform is common to the area.

The vegetation consists of a continuous comparatively dense stand of pinyon juniper, scrub oak and individual ponderosa pines. Small open grassland areas might be expected to occur sporadically throughout the area.

A few minor streams are present but do not offer any significant visual impact.

The densely wooded mesa presents a consistent green pattern with little variation.

The mesa provides a vantage point for viewing the rivers below although they do not constitute a significant influence on the visual quality of the mesa.

Cultural modifications consist of a transmission line corridor in the western portion.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2-little relief
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	0-non-apparent
4	Color	5	3	1	2
5	Influence	5	3	0	2-overlook rivers
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1-common
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0-transmission line

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 10 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
056	C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1/11/79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, DS

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 057-May Canyon

Film: Roll # 11 Frame # 19, 20

Time of Day 1:00 p.

Weather overcast

Mesa

Landscape Character:

General Narrative: This plateau is situated north of the town of Dolores and the Dolores River. It is a relatively flat-topped unit with areas that appear slightly rolling because of a few eroded stream channels. This whole area slopes gently to the southwest and to the Dolores River.

Vegetation consists mainly of pinyon-juniper and scrub oak that occur in a random, patchy fasion. A variety of grasses and shrubs occupy the stream courses.

Views are panoramic at the southern edge of the unit and include the distant Ute Mountain, the Cortez Valley, and the cliffs of Mesa Verde National Park, with a focal view of the Dolores River Canyon at your feet.

An active, fairly large gravel pit is situated atop this unit and detracts from the naturalness of the area. In general the area is not outstanding in scenic quality and lacks significant visual interest.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	2
5	Influence	5	3	0	4-panoramic
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1-common
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0-gravel pit

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 12 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU 057

Final Rating B-

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 058-Lower Dolores River

Film: Roll # 11 Frame # 7,8,9,11

9 33-35

Landscape Character: Canyon/River Valley

Date 1/11/79

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, DS

Time of Day 10:30 a.

Weather overcast

General Narrative: This unit is located northwest of the town of Dolores. The Dolores River meanders through this small and somewhat narrow canyon. Moderate to steep sidewalls are common, although there is not a great amount of vertical relief from the valley floor to the top of the canyon walls. At the northern edge of this unit on the west side of the river, the canyon walls terminate and are replaced by rolling hills which increase viewing distances beyond the immediate foreground.

Vegetation is diverse with willows and cottonwoods dominating the valley floor, while pinyon-juniper, and scrub oak occupy the hill sides. Views are primarily restricted to the immediate foreground and totally contained within this canyon.

There are a number of active gravel pits which have a negative influence on the scenic quality of this unit. Because of the narrowness of the canyon, and the road placement, these pits are dominant focal points which cannot be overlooked.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3-canyon
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4-diverse
3	Water	5	3	0	5-Dolores River
4	Color	5	3	1	4
5	Influence	5	3	0	0
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	-4 - many gravel pits

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 13 = ____ (A, B, or C)

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33

Class B 12-18

Class C 11 or Less

SQRU 058

Final Rating B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1-13-79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) EB, PG

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 059 - North Rim Hills

Film: Roll # Frame #

Time of Day 3:00 p.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Rolling Hills

General Narrative: These foothills are a transitional area between the abrupt walls of Mesa Verde's North Rim and the Montezuma Valley which lies below. The form of hills is generally smooth, low and rolling. The hills are largely undisturbed and are covered with a consistent growth of pinyons and junipers, which add little color, variety or interest to the unit.

Water is not readily seen though the hills are crossed by a number of drainageways. Surrounding views of Mesa Verde's steep cliffs and the La Plata Mountains increase the scenic character of these otherwise common hills.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	1
5	Influence	5	3	0	4
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 12 = ____ (A, B, or C)

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
059	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1-13-79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) PG, EB

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 060-Montezuma Valley

Film: Roll #	Frame #
9	26-28
10	17-20, 29, 30
11	28
13	31

Time of Day 3:30 p.m.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Broad Valley

General Narrative: The Montezuma Valley is a long and broad valley which extends for approximately 15 or 20 miles northeast-southwest through the Sacred Mountain planning unit. The valley is roughly 3 or 4 miles wide and is bordered to the south by the North Rim of Mesa Verde and to the north by Sleeping Ute Mountain.

The valley floor is extremely smooth and flat but becomes gently rolling at its extremities. The horizontal lines of the valley contrast strongly with the angular, somewhat vertical lines of the slopes which bound it.

Much of the Montezuma Valley has been put to agricultural use and is characterized by open, extensive pasturelands, croplands, and orchards. In unmanaged areas, the natural vegetation is comprised of extensive sagebrush, rabbit brush communities, wild grasses, and scattered pinyons and juniper.

Though not highly visible, McElmo Creek bisects the valley and is its major drainage course. The creek supports riparian vegetation dominated by willows and cottonwoods.

A relatively dense network of roads run through the valley, and numerous agricultural and residential structures are present. The valley has a very airy and open character, and the extensive views of the surrounding mesas and mountainsides add a degree of interest to what otherwise would be a very uninteresting landscape.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1-flat
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2
3	Water	5	3	0	1-McElmo Creek
4	Color	5	3	1	2-seasonally interesting
5	Influence	5	3	0	4-Mesa Verde, Ute Mt.
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	0

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 11 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
060	C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1-29-79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) KM, MF, DS

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 061-Totten Reservoir

Film: Roll # 9 Frame # 29
11 27, 29

Time of Day 5:00 p..

Weather overcast

Landscape Character:

Reservoir

General Narrative: Totten Reservoir is located on the eastern edge of Cortez. Its location and easy access undoubtedly make it a popular recreation spot for local residents. The reservoir is hardly large enough for more than minimal use by motorized craft but is probably stocked with fish and would thus serve as a fishing, canoeing and picnicking site. Camping facilities do exist (outhouse). Evidence of moderate to heavy use was noted.

Topographic relief around the reservoir is not great. The reservoir lies in a shallow basin and has very few distinguishing characteristics. Ute Mountain and Mesa Verde can be seen in the distance.

Vegetation around the water body is not exceptional but rather a simple continuation of the general floral makeup of the area. Its location near to town and high sue levels by local residents probably result in a reduced wildlife usage level.

Color constrast of the blue sky with the green of a few pinyons and junipers, the fall yellow of a few cottonwoods and the variable reflections of the water surface provide some interest.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1-little relief
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3 (2 or 3 types)
3	Water	5	3	0	5
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3-mtns in distance
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	2-not unique
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 18 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU 061

Final Rating B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1-13-79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) PG, EB

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 062-Yellow Jacket Canyon

Film: Roll #	Frame #
9	7, 9, 14
12	20,21,25,29,31,32
13	5
11	28,29

Time of Day 11:00 a.

Weather overcast

Landscape Character: Canyon

General Narrative: This SQRU is an area of small mesas and canyons that have been formed as a result of fluvial erosion of the uplifted sedimentary rock which underlies the area.

Very steep, ruggedly eroded walls define the canyons. Many striations are evident along the canyon walls, and the strata range in color from tans to siennas and rusts. Many of the rock layers differ in respect to their resistance to erosion and consequently the walls take on a variety of interestingly sculptured forms. Many broken, angular boulders are strewn about the base of the cliffs.

Little vegetation exists along the steep, precipitous areas of exposed rock although isolated pinyons and junipers sometimes cling to the rock faces. The vegetation becomes denser along the canyon floor and is generally comprised of a mix of sagebrush, rabbit brush, willow, and grasses.

Yellow Jacket Creek is deeply entrenched in the canyon floor and is the unit's major drainage course.

The unit is largely free of significant intrusions. The steep canyon walls effectively enclose the viewshed and thereby minimize the scenic influence of adjacent scenery. The colorful canyon walls, the steeply dramatic terrain, and the natural character of the area combine to make this unit quite scenic.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	4-steep canyon
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2
3	Water	5	3	0	2-not dominant
4	Color	5	3	1	4-rich variety
5	Influence	5	3	0	1
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 16 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
062	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 063-McElmo Creek

Film: Roll # 9 Frame # 1,8, 10-25
12 22-24, 26-28, 30

Date 1-11-79

Evaluator(s) PG, EB

Time of Day 11:45 a.

Weather overcast

Landscape Character: Narrow Valley

General Narrative: The SQRU is a long and narrow valley which extends east-west for roughly 20 miles through the Sacred Mountain Planning Unit. The valley is bisected by McElmo Creek, a 10-15 foot wide drainage which flows slowly to the west.

The valley floor is largely flat at its eastern and western extremes, but in the central portion, exposed horizontally oriented rock outcroppings have formed a series of terraced benches which create an uneven topography.

The valley is bounded to the north and south by very steep, flat-topped rock walls which rise roughly 200 feet above the valley floor. These walls are composed of banded sedimentary rock which ranges in color from light tan to deep red. Differential erosion of the rock walls has resulted in a variety of physical forms; the walls are angular and broken in the western areas, smooth and rounded to the east. Broken boulders are commonly strewn about the base of the walls.

Vegetation is extensive and diverse along the creek and adds a great deal of color to the unit. Very dense willows line the banks of the creek, often intermixed with 25'-30' cottonwoods. Scattered pinyons and junipers are present along the valley floor along with tufts of sagebrush and stands of waist-high rabbit brush. Vegetative diversity is increased by the presence of several seemingly abandoned fruit orchards and the presence of many introduced species such as Lombardy popular and locust. A number of residential and abandoned structures dot the unit but the visual impact on the landscape is not imposing. (see ~~back of form~~) Sleeping Ute Mt. stands at the Eastern end of the valley and its CONTINUED BELOW rounded form lends a pleasantly contrasting presence to the valley. Battle Rock is a very prominent, sculptured rock formation which rises above the central portion of the valley and is a focal point of visual interest.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4-diverse, often dense
3	Water	5	3	0	3
4	Color	5	3	1	4
5	Influence	5	3	0	2
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 17 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU 063

Final Rating: B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 064-Hamilton Mesa

Film: Roll # * Frame #

Date 1/13/79

Evaluator(s) KVM FB
MF, DS PG

Time of Day 1 p.m.

Weather clear

Mesa

Landscape Character:

*NOTE: Look at aerial photos

General Narrative: Hamilton Mesa includes Mail Trail Mesa, Rincon Canyon, McElmo Canyon, and a number of lesser, unnamed, but similar physiographic areas.

This is an area of intricate topographic change from steep walled erosion channels (called canyons but of much less scale than the term Canyon implies) to small plateaus and mesas extending 200-300 feet above the lower elevations.

A few oil wells exist within the SQRU but they are not dominant.

In many ways this SQRU is very similar to SQRU 062, Yellow Jacket Canyon; please refer to this unit for a full discussion on similar characteristics.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	1
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	2
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 14 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
064	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1/13/79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, DS

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 065-Upper Yellow Jacket

Film: Roll # 12 Frame # 32-36
13 1,2,4

Time of Day 1:00 p.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Canyon

General Narrative: This unit consists of portions of Yellow Jacket Canyon and Sandstone Canyon. The walls are generally 800' from the canyon floor.

Please refer to unit 066 for a narrative description of this unit.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	4
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	4-not dominant at all times
4	Color	5	3	1	4-large variety
5	Influence	5	3	0	0
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 17 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33
Class B 12-18
Class C 11 or Less

SQRU 065
Final Rating B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1/13/79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) KVM, MF, DS

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 066-Cross Canyon

Film: Roll # 13 Frame # 7-11

Time of Day 3:00 p.m.

Weather clear

Landscape Character: Canyons

NOTE: Due to a recent snowstorm and icy road conditions in near zero degree temperatures these areas were observed from a light aircraft at 1000'-1500' of elevation.

General Narrative: Cross Canyon SQRU is a composite of one main canyon and several branch canyons including McLean Basin, Ruin Canyon, Cow Canyon and other lesser branches. All of these areas exhibit steep brown-tan walls, some areas more eroded than others, stratifications or pronounced layering, occasional red-brown monuments and layers, and a large number of rock outcrops from ancient scouring. A stream actively flows through all the canyons but may become intermittent in hot weather. Along steeply angled walls pinyon-juniper grow in moderately dense forests. The walls rise generally 1000' from the canyon floors to nearly flat narrow plateaus which divide the canyons. From the lower elevations few views are possible and a traveler would experience the macro nature of the twisting canyon. With the exception of the wide southern sections where some grazing is carried out, the canyons are very natural and free from intrusions. Although these canyons are interesting and quite attractive to move through and view they are similar to several other canyons within this planning unit.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3-steep walls
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	4-not dominant at all times
4	Color	5	3	1	4-large variety
5	Influence	5	3	0	0
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 17 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33
Class B 12-18
Class C 11 or Less

SQRU 066
Final Rating B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1/13/79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) MF, DS, KVM

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 067-Negro Canyon

Film: Roll # * Frame #

Time of Day 2:30 p.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Rolling Hills

* NOTE: Loot at aerial photos

General Narrative:

Negro Canyon is very similar to unit 068. The main difference between these units is that a small creek flows south down the middle of this unit and has created a rolling landscape. Unit 068 is flat and "plateau" like.

Please refer to unit 068 for a narrative description of this unit.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 14 = ____ (A, B, or C)

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
067	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1/13/79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) KVM, MF, DS

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 068-Cajon Mesa

Film: Roll # 9 Frame # 5,6
13 6

Time of Day 2:30 p.

Weather clear

Mesa

Landscape Character:

NOTE: Due to the snowstorm of the previous day, the majority of roads in the area were not plowed, making this unit nearlv inaccessible. Therefore the area was observed and rated from the air in a single engine plane at an elevation of 1000-1500'

General Narrative:

From the air, these plateaus form fingerlike projections between the heavily-vegetated walls of Yellow Jacket, Sandstone, Hovenweep and Cross Canyons. To the northeast these flat-topped uplands merge with and blend into the Broad Valley Unit. Towards the southwest the plateaus are somewhat over-shadowed by Ute mountain.

These plateaus appear to have sharply defined edges accented by abrupt changes in vegetative cover. The dark pinyon-juniper stands which originally occupied both valley and plateau have been removed from the plateaus by chaining methods and have been replaced by shrub-grass communities. This dramatic difference between the dense vegetative cover of the valleys and sparser cover of the plateaus provides an interesting visual experience.

Large or distinctive bodies of water were not apparent on the plateaus during the flight. Cultural developments consisted of gas and oil field apparatus and a few ranches, although these were not dominant visual attractions.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	4
3	Water	5	3	0	0-none noted
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	3-Ute Mountain
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1-gas-oil rigs

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 14 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less
SQRU	Final Rating
068	B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1/13/79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, DS

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 069-Squaw Canyon

Film: Roll # * Frame #

Time of Day 2:00 p.

Weather sunny

Canyon

Landscape Character:

* See aerial photos

General Narrative: This unit consists of the upper reaches of Squaw Canyon, Monument Canyon, and Coal Bed Canyon. Side walls rise 600' above the valley floor within Squaw Canyon, while the monument and Coal Bed Canyons have less vertical relief between the valley floor and the top of the canyon.

Refer to unit 066 for a narrative description of this unit.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	3
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	4
4	Color	5	3	1	4
5	Influence	5	3	0	0
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 17 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33

Class B 12-18

Class C 11 or Less

SQRU 069

Final Rating B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1/13/79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, DS

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 070-Alkali Canyon

Film: Roll # 12 Frame # 7,8
13 12-14

Time of Day 3:00 p.

Weather sunny

Canyon

Landscape Character:

General Narrative: Alkali Canyon is an upper branch of Cross Canyon (SQRU 066) and is similar in most of its characteristics with Cross Canyon except for its landform. Alkali Canyon is much shallower and lacks the sharp definition of a older and larger canyon. Most of its sides are actively eroding and appear more angular and less vertical.

For a complete narrative of this area's vegetation and particulars see Cross Canyon, SQRU 066.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	3
5	Influence	5	3	0	1
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 12 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU ↓ 070

Final Rating ↓ B

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1/13/79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, DS

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 071-Mountain Sheep Point

Film: Roll # 13 Frame # 16-23

Time of Day 12:00 noon

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Canyon

General Narrative: This part of the Dolores Canyon is the most spectacular segment within this planning unit. The Dolores River flows southwest to Mountain Sheep Point where it changes its course 180° before flowing to the north. The canyon is very dramatic due to the near vertical side slopes which fall 1200 feet to valley floor. Highly eroded sedimentary rock outcrops are massive visual elements within this canyon. Blocky, angular, and broken forms, erratic lines, and a variety of textures and colors are typical throughout this area which create an exciting and dramatic visual experience.

Vegetation is limited and very sparse, consisting primarily of pinyon, juniper, and pines where level areas exist within this canyon dominated by rock outcrops.

Views are totally enclosed within the canyon, and create interesting spacial experiences which constantly change for those who float the river or travel in the narrow valley floor.

This area is very natural and is unique within this planning unit. It is of great visual interest due primarily to its depth and narrowness, and the Dolores River which has created this spectacular canyon.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	5
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3
3	Water	5	3	0	5
4	Color	5	3	1	4
5	Influence	5	3	0	0
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	6
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	2

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 25 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU 071

Final Rating A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1/11/79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) KVM, MF, DS

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 072-Pleasant View

Film: Roll # 11 Frame # 15,16,22,26,30-36
12 1-6, 9-19
13 1,2,14,15,24,25,29

Time of Day 3:30 p.

Weather heavy overcast

Landscape Character: Broad Valley

General Narrative: This SQRU consists of more than 200 square miles of relatively flat terrain, occasionally becoming slowly rolling, and occasionally broken by shallow ends of long linear canyons. Traveling end to end the physiographic character of the landscape is similar; flat to low rolling, generally cultivated or used for grazing, with few unusual scenic qualities.

Much of the valley is devoted to raising Pinto Beans with Dove Creek claiming to be the "Pinto Bean Capitol of the World".

Although it is a very large area, the valley is laced with a grid-work of roads used by the agricultural interest. Though sparsely settled the area appears "well settled" with few views that do not include a residence, barn, or other signs of low-key development.

No water is obvious other than occasional reservoirs of little note.

Views of surrounding mesas, mountains and wooded slopes provides scale and interest to a generally dull landscape. In the mid-section of the Broad Valley Unit, the undulation of the topography becomes more pronounced. Draws, occupied by pinyon-juniper or by sagebrush/rabbitbrush communities are bisected by the main road. An adult Bald Eagle was observed roosting in a small pinyon in Sec. 27 of T41N, R19W.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	1-flat
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2-little
3	Water	5	-3	0	0
4	Color	5	3	1	2
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	1
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1-junk yard

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 10 = ____
A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33
Class B 12-18
Class C 11 or Less

SQRU 072
Final Rating C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1/11/79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) KVM, MF, DS

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 073-Dolores River

Film: Roll # 11 Frame # 12, 13, 14
13 26

Time of Day 11:30 a.

Weather cloudy

Landscape Character: Canyon/River Valley

General Narrative: The Dolores River Canyon is a fairly unique riparian area which supports a wide variety of vegetation including cottonwoods, cedars, junipers, Ponderosa Pine, willows and a number of small shrubs and grasses. Confined within steeply angled, moderately forested walls, which in places become cliffs, the meandering river has cut and deposited materials over the years within its narrow limits. Within this riparian bottom large communities of vegetation support a variety of wildlife to include raptors, owls, and small rodents.

Although grazing is carried out within the canyon from the few ranches located there, few cultural modifications adversely effect the visual quality.

The river itself is about 20'-40' wide, shallow and fast-flowing and appears to contain fish and other small aquatic vertibrates.

Few views of adjacent scenery are possible from the canyon floor, however the variety of vegetation, the river and the light tan to red-brown rock walls lend distinctive color to this area.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	4-steep,occasional pinacles/colorful
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	5-large variety
3	Water	5	3	0	5-major river
4	Color	5	3	1	4
5	Influence	5	3	0	0-none
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	4
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1-ranches

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 23 = ____ A, B, or C

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU 073

Final Rating: A

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Date 1/11/79

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Evaluator(s) MF, KVM, DS

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 074-Narraguinnep Reservoir

Film: Roll # 9 Frame # 36
11 1-5
13 27

Time of Day 10:00 a.

Weather overcast

Landscape Character: Reservoir between Rolling Hills

General Narrative: Narraguinnep Reservoir lies in a broad, low valley between two rolling hills. The reservoir is comparatively large and most likely provides recreational opportunities in the form of boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and picnicking. Since the dam is crossed by a major road (state hwy. 1 this area is quite accessible and probably receives considerable use in summer. Th rolling topography adds interest to the area, however, it does not constitute a major influence. The vegetation in the general vicinity of the reservoir is predominantly pinyon-juniper which is common to the area. Two smaller types (a rough breaks area and mesic vegetation along the reservoir margins) do add some contrast and do provide somewhat unique habitats. Contrasts of green vegetation with the bare rock outcrops, dark brown soil and blue sky added with reflections from the water surface enhance the color composition of the area. Although this is the largest and probably most important reservoir in the area there are others nearby and therefore it is not totally unique. The reservoir is in itself a cultural modification which does enhance the site for wildlife as well as man.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	2-not simply a valley
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	3-only 2 small types
3	Water	5	3	0	5-large water body
4	Color	5	3	1	4-contrast reflection
5	Influence	5	3	0	2
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	2-not totally unique
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1-roadway and substation

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A	19-33
Class B	12-18
Class C	11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rati
074	A

Subtotal ____ + ____ + ____ = Total 19 = ____ A, B, or C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

District Montrose

Planning Unit Sacred Mountain

Scenic Quality Rating Unit 075-Goodman Canyon

Film: Roll # 12 Frame # 21, 25

Date 1/13/79

Evaluator(s) CT, TT

Time of Day 1:00 p.m.

Weather sunny

Landscape Character: Canyon

General Narrative: The Goodman Canyon rating unit is actually a collection of north-south oriented sandstone canyons which, at their lower end, open into a common system of rock terraces draining down into McElmo Creek which runs east-west in perpendicular fashion. The upper canyons themselves, of which Goodman and Sand Canyons are most notable, are characterized by colorful sandstone formations which blend from dark red through light orange in the vertical walls. Only the canyon bottoms are vegetated, principally by pinyon-juniper communities. Further down, the canyons open into a complex system of terraces characterized by u-shaped sandstone head walls some 10-20 feet high above which pinyon juniper covered slopes rise to the foot of succeeding sandstone headwalls. This pattern is repeated countless times throughout the terrace complex such that the colorful red to orange sandstone headwalls scattered amongst the pinyon juniper woodland makes a highly interesting and scenic setting. Adding to the natural interest are the numerous archaeological ruins which are scattered throughout the area. Modern-day activity takes the form of natural gas well sites and access roads. However, due to the complex natural land patterns these intrusions are, as yet, largely unnoticed.

Just across McElmo Creek to the south stands Sleeping Ute Mountain which completes the enclosed nature of this area and adds significantly to its setting.

Score (Circle Appropriate Level)

		High	Medium	Low	Rationale or Explanation
1	Landform	5	3	1	4
2	Vegetation	5	3	1	2
3	Water	5	3	0	1
4	Color	5	3	1	5
5	Influence	5	3	0	3
6	Scarcity	6	2	1	5
7	Cultural Modification	2	0	-4	1

Scenic Quality Classification

Class A 19-33
Class B 12-18
Class C 11 or Less

SQRU	Final Rating
075	A

Subtotal ___ + ___ + ___ = Total 21 = ___
A, B, or C

SCENIC QUALITY FIELD INVENTORY FORM

SACRED MOUNTAIN

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Power Substation - 001

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	7	4

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	1	H	M	L	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 1 Frame # 6

Time of day 10:00 a Weather overcast/sunny

Evaluator MF, KVM, DS

Type

(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score

(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential

(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success

(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).
This power substation is a dominant focal point due to its size and location adjacent to Route 184. A series of utility lines leave the substation adding to the visual dominance of this station. Trees planted along the roadway would help screen this station from view.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

CRED MOUNTAIN

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Pulp Mill - 002

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	4	9

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	2	L	M	H	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 1 Frame # 10

Time of day 2:00 p Weather overcast

Evaluator MF, KVM, DS

Type
(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score
(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential
(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success
(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).
This Pulp Mill is not a dominant visual element. Though it is fairly extensive as seen from the air, only the pulp stack is open to view from major travel routes.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Active Gravel Pit - 003

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	5	7

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
1	0	0	3	M	M	H	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 11 Frame # 20

Time of day 1:00 p. Weather overcast

Evaluator MF, KVM, DS

Type
(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score
(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential
(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success
(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4). This gravel pit is located atop this plateau and cannot be seen except by those traveling up through this area. There are many mounds of earth that have been left or created by these excavations. Vegetative screening could relieve some of the influence this site has on the rating unit. Due to heavy snow, the real extent of this modification is unknown.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Transmission Line - 004

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	4	9

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	4	L	M	M	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 11 Frame # 17

Time of day 1:00 p Weather overcast

Evaluator MF, KVM, DS

Type

(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score

(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential

(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success

(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).

This utility line is constructed of two timber poles with a timber cross bar. Though it is not a dominant visual element in the landscape, vegetative screening would be desired to reduce its impact.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Junk Yard - 005

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	7	2

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	5	H	M		

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 11 Frame # 30 & 31

Time of day 8:00 a Weather sunny

Evaluator MF, DS, KVM

Type

(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score

(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential

(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success

(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).

This junk yard located adjacent to Route 666 is an extensive intrusion and a focal point for those who drive this road. Vegetative screening could reduce the visual impact of the junk yard. It is a small intrusion compared to the total rating unit.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Gravel Pits - 006

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	5	8

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
1	0	0	6	H	M	L	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 11 Frame # 7

Time of day 11:00 a Weather overcast

Evaluator MF, DS, KVM

Type

(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score

(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential

(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success

(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).

This gravel pit is one of many located along the valley floor. It is quite extensive and detracts from the natural character and scenic quality of this small canyon. It is a dominant focal point which cannot be overlooked. The extractive operations have severely disrupted both the landform and the vegetation in this area.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

SACRED MOUNTAIN

1. Name or Type of Cultural Modification Transmission Line - 007

2. Legal Description and/or U. T. M. Coordinates

3. Unit Resource Analysis III Data:

1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
					0	4	7

4	5	5	5	6	7	8	
3	0	0	7	L	M	H	

1. District
2. Planning Unit
3. Scenic Quality Rating Unit
4. Type
5. Number
6. Feature Contrast Score
7. Potential for Rehabilitation
8. Potential for Success

FILM: Roll # 8 Frame # 29

Time of day 1:00 p Weather sunny

Evaluator MF, DS, KVM

Type

(4) 1 - land and/or water
2 - vegetation
3 - structure

Feature Contrast Score

(6) L - Indicates the contrast can be seen, but does not attract attention.
M - The contrast begins to dominate.
H - Demand attention, will not be overlooked.

Rehabilitation Potential

(7) M - modification
E - elimination

Potential for Success

(8) H - Fairly certain contract can be satisfactorily reduced to meet low contrast.
M - Difficult to accurately evaluate success, but chances look promising to meet low contrast.
L - Probability is low that a change will be made, or success would be limited to meet low contrast.

4. Effect on Scenic Quality (Describe how cultural modification enhances or detracts from scenic quality as is reflected in its rating in key factor chart (Illustration 4).

This transmission line constructed of two wooden poles in not that dominant, although the corridor of cut trees does tend to dominate. This could be reduced through cutting to eliminate the straight edges and blending the opening into natural openings.

FIELD FORM FOR MODIFICATION INVENTORY AND FEATURE CONTRAST SCORE

VISUAL SENSITIVITY - USE VOLUME

TABLE 13

USE VOLUME DATA SUMMARY
(Sacred Mountain Planning Unit)

KEY OBSERVATION POINT	LOCATION	VOLUME
Dolores River	--	High
U.S. Hwy. 160	--	High
U.S. Hwy. 666	--	High
State Rte. 141	--	High
State Rte. 145	--	High
State Rte. 147	--	High
State Rte. 184	--	High
Lebanon Road	Cortez to State Rte. 147	High
Simon Draw Road	U.S. Hwy. 160 to Dolores	High
Pleasant View Road	Pleasant View to Cajon Mesa	Moderate
Arriola Road	Arriola to Goodman Point	Moderate
McElmo Creek Road	S. Cortez down McElmo Creek	High
Bean Canyon Road	Dolores to Bean Canyon	High ?
Mancos River Road	U.S. Hwy. 160 to Mancox Canyon	Moderate
Weber Canyon Road	Mancos into Weber Canyon	Moderate
Jackson Gulch Reservoir Road	Mancos north to Jackson Gulch Reservoir	High ?

VISUAL SENSITIVITY - USER ATTITUDES

OVERVIEW

A visual sensitivity workshop was held for the Sacred Mountain Planning Unit in Cortez at the Empire Electric Company building at 10:00 AM on Thursday, January 25, 1979. Of the 37 individuals contacted, 13 attended. A list of those contacted and/or attending is shown in Table 14. The relatively poor attendance is in part attributable to newspaper editorials the week preceeding the workshop accusing BLM of holding "wilderness" workshops under the guise of "visual" resources in an overt effort to "Covet Wasteland Above Progress". In addition, the newspaper erroneously reported the workshop time as 1:00 PM rather than 10:00 AM.

Mr. Jerry Kendrick, Area Manager opened the meeting with an introduction which included a discussion of the relationship of this workshop to the Area's overall planning effort. The remainder of the workshop was conducted and facilitated by Wirth Associates.

Of the 13 rating forms submitted, all were utilized in the analysis. Within the Sacred Mountain Planning Unit there were 33 rating units, of which two rated high after tabulation and analysis, 13 rated moderate and 18 rated low.

Of the 13 participants, 6 were County Commissioners. Only two representatives of industry attended (both from Empire Electric); cattlemen had one representative; and N.P.S. was represented as well as a local newspaper. The remaining two individuals (the Gerlachs) represented themselves. As a result, there were notable gaps in representation from other types of industry, conservation organizations and recreation interests. The over-representation of County Commissioners with their near identical responses is largely responsible for the overall trend of the final ratings.

The poor public representation and workshop results were discussed at length in a follow-up meeting in Durango with Mr. Kendrick and members of his staff. Their conclusion was that the ratings, although low, were generally representative of the relatively low level of sensitivity of citizens in this area in light of their over-riding desire for progress. Further, it was felt by the Area staff that any additional attempts to obtain a more representative sample would be difficult and have a marginal effect on the existing workshop results. It was concluded that the workshop results would be utilized as is with the recognition that moderate ratings in this Planning Unit actually represent areas of significant value to the local residents. It was simply their desire not to impede progress that kept them from rating areas "high" (strongly opposed to change). Also, because BLM manages its resources with national as well as local considerations in mind, any management proposals in areas rating a "moderate" sensitivity would be given particularly close scrutiny.

The two high ratings were given to areas that would have rated moderate based upon a direct interpretation of participant responses. These areas along the Dolores River were changed to high by BLM personnel to reflect the high resource values and pending "scenic" designation for these areas.

Moderate ratings can be characterized into a few basic landscape types. These are reservoirs, mountains, mountain foothills, river canyons, and the more interesting "dry" canyons such as Yellow Jacket Canyon (#20) and Sand Canyon

(#33). Water and rugged terrain seem to be the key to areas of the highest value to local residents.

Low ratings were given to areas of rolling hills, flat plateaus, broad valleys and most of the "dry" canyons that are cut into the upland plateau (#30). With the exception of the dry canyons these are typically areas of less diversity and interest. The low ratings for most dry canyons was attributed, by the Area Office staff, to the fact that they are non-utilitarian in terms of agriculture and as recreation areas, can't compete with the more spectacular mountainous country bordering the Planning Unit to the north.

Workshop analysis and summary sheets for each rating unit follow. The responses to specific issues or projects by workshop participants were not utilized in the user attitudes analysis but are included following the workshop summary and analysis forms for Area Office use and information.

TABLE 14

SACRED MOUNTAIN WORKSHOP INVITEES

Howard N. Acott
San Juan Voc-Tech School
(did not attend)

Foster L. Allenbary
Cortez Newspapers
(attended, did not participate)

Clay Bader
Montezuma County Commissioner
(did not attend)

Clive Bailey
General Electric Uranium Management Corp.
(did not attend)

Bill Bauer
Montezuma County Commissioner
(participated)

Michael & Maxine Bonan
Dove Creek Press
(did not attend)

Tim Bordeaux
Chamber of Commerce, Mancos
(did not attend)

V. T. Boyd
Dolores Major
(did not attend)

C. D. Brown
Montezuma Valley Journal
(did not attend)

Louis Bucher
Dolores County Commissioner
(participated)

Lyle Cox
Mancos Mayor
(did not attend)

Marcia Cummins
Cortez Chamber of Commerce
(did not attend)

David M. Denton
Montezuma County
(participated)

James Fulton
(did not attend)

Claire Gerlach
(participated)

Raymond Gerlach
(participated)

Curtis Honaker
(did not attend)

Everett Johnson
Empire Electric
(participated)

Keith Jones
Mobil Oil
(did not attend)

Myron Jones
Dolores County Commissioner
(participated)

Lloyd Knuckles
Dove Creek Mayor
(did not attend)

Bill Lemons
Empire Electric
(participated)

Charles M. McAfee
(participated)

Lewis McCool
Dolores Star
(participated)

Dick McDonald
Colorado Division of Wildlife
(did not attend)

SACRED MOUNTAIN (Cont'd)

Mike D. McLain
Colorado Division of Wildlife
(did not attend)

John Porter
(did not attend)

Floyd Ray
Montezuma County Commissioners
(participated)

James Suckla
(did not attend)

Mel Swanson
Kelmine Corporation
(did not attend)

Ron Switzer/
Harold Smith
Mesa Verde National Park
(participated)

Chester Tozer
(did not attend)

Wayne Twilley
Dolores County Commissioner
(participated)

Owen Uptain
(did not attend)

Ted Weed
Dove Creek Chamber of Commerce
(did not attend)

Glen Wilson
Montezuma County Extension Service
(did not attend)

Eldon Zwicker
(did not attend)

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #1
ounty Line Mountains

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	3
MED.	MP	5
LOW	LP	2
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	3	2	3	2	1	1	1
▒	5	2	2	3	2	3	1
▓	2	3	3	2	5	3	5

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The strong "moderate" rating for Desired Mgmt. Class was used as the basis for resolving the moderate/low ratings for reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Workshop Rating Unit: #2 leber Canyon

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

Rating Units	Landscape Values		Desired Mgmt. Class
	HIGH	P	
		HP	1
	MED.	MP	4
	LOW	LP	4
		R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐ 3	☐ 2	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 2
▒ 4	▒ 1	▒ 2	▒ 1	▒ 5	▒ 2	▒ 2
▓ 2	▓ 4	▓ 5	▓ 5	▓ 2	▓ 3	▓ 3

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: BLM personnel resolved the difference between ratings for desired level of protection (moderate/low) and reaction to change (low) to an overall level of "moderate" based on their knowledge of the area.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Workshop Rating Unit: #3 eber/Menafee Mountains

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

Rating Units		Desired Mgmt. Class
LANDSCAPE VALUES HIGH	P	
	HP	2
MED.	MP	5
LOW	LP	2
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
□	3	1	4	2	2	1	-
▒	6	3	-	3	1	2	3
▓		2	3	1	3	3	3

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The divergent opinions indicated for reaction to change were resolved to "moderate" which correlates well with the desired level of protection.

* □ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN

Rating Units			Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #4	LANDSCAPE VALUES HIGH	P	
Mancos Valley		HP	1
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	MED.	MP	1
	LOW	LP	6
		R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
▨	2	2	–	1	1	1	–
■	4	4	7	5	6	5	6

Final Rating: LOW

Rationale: A clearcut "low" level of concern for the visual resource is indicated by the results for the Mancos Valley.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ■ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

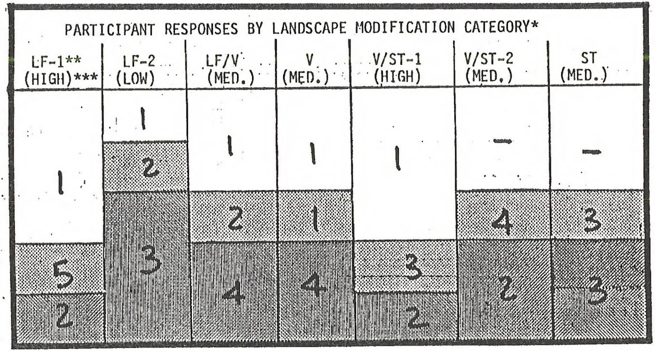
Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: # 5

ckson Gulch

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	2
MED.	MP	4
LOW	LP	2
	R	


PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The moderate/low ratings were resolved to "moderate" overall by BLM Area personnel based on their knowledge of the area.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units	Landscape Values		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #6	HIGH	P	
ckson Reservoir		HP	4
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	MED.	MP	5
	LOW	LP	
		R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	3	1	1	4	2	3	1
▒	6	2	5	3	5	3	4
▓		4	2	–	1	1	2

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The overall "moderate" ratings for reaction to change were considered strong enough to sway the moderate/high ratings for the desired level of protection.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #7
North Cortez Hills

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	
MED.	MP	3
LOW	LP	5
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
▒	6	—	2	4	3	2	1
▓	2	6	5	2	4	4	5

Final Rating: LOW

Rationale: Low concern overall is shown by these ratings for the North Cortez Hills.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

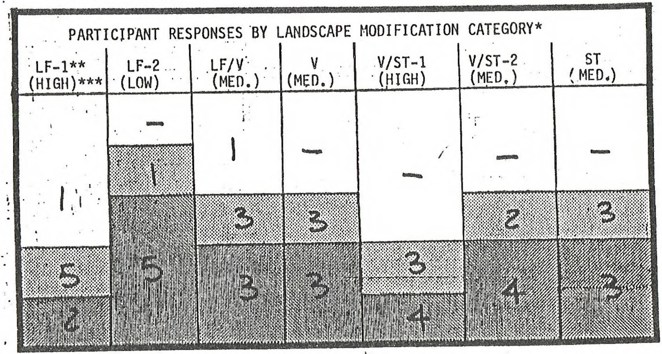
** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units			Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: # 8 West Fork Ridge	LANDSCAPE VALUES HIGH	P	
		HP	
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	MED.	MP	6
	LOW	LP	2
		R	



PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	1	–	1	–	–	–	–
▒	5	1	3	3	3	2	3
▓	2	5	3	3	4	4	3

L+

Final Rating: M MODERATE

Rationale: The moderate/low ratings for the West Fork Ridge were resolved by Area BLM personnel to "moderate" overall based on their knowledge of the area.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units	LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #9 inking Springs Canyon	HIGH	P	
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):		HP	
	MED.	MP	2
	LOW	LP	6
		R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	1	—	1	— ~~1~~	—	—	—
▒	3	2	1	2	2	2	—
▓	4	4	5	4	5	4	6

Final Rating: LOW

Rationale: Low concern overall is indicated by participant results for Stinking Springs Canyon.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #10
Cash Canyon

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	
MED.	MP	2
LOW	LP	5
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	1	–	1	–	–	–	–
▨	3	2	1	3	2	2	–
▩	3	4	5	3	5	4	6

Final Rating: Low

Rationale: "Low" ratings are indicated for both the Desired Mgmt. Class and reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #11

artman Draw

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	
MED.	MP	3
LOW	LP	5
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
□	2	–	1	–	–	–	–
▨	3	1	–	3	3	2	–
▩	3	5	6	3	4	4	6

Final Rating: Low

Rationale: Consistently low ratings are indicated across the board for Hartman Draw.

* □ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #12 Summit/Puett Reservoirs

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	2
MED.	MP	7
LOW	LP	
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐ 2 ░ 6 ▓ 1	☐ – ░ 3 ▓ 4	☐ – ░ 6 ▓ 2	☐ 3 ░ 3 ▓ 1	☐ 1 ░ 6 ▓ 1	☐ – ░ 5 ▓ 2	☐ – ░ 4 ▓ 3

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: Good correlation exists between the moderate ratings for desired level of protection and reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ░ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

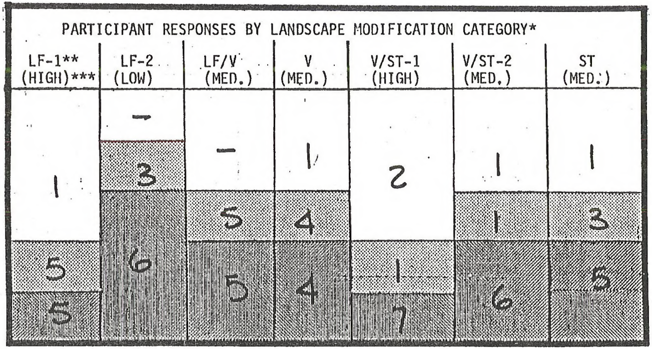
Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #13

ost Canyon

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
HIGH	HP	2
MED.	MP	8
LOW	LP	1
	R	



PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
P	☐	☐ –	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
HP	☐ 1	░ 3	☐ –	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 1	☐ 1
MP	☐	▓ 6	░ 5	░ 4	☐	░ 1	░ 3
LP	░ 5	▓	▓ 5	▓ 4	░ 1	▓ 6	▓ 5
R	▓ 5	▓	▓	▓	▓ 7	▓	▓

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The overall "moderate" rating was resolved by Area BLM personnel based on the strength of the "moderate" desired level of protection and their knowledge of the area.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ░ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units	LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #14	HIGH	P	
aycamp Mesa		HP	3
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	MED.	MP	3
	LOW	LP	4
		R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
▨	5	4	4	3	4	4	4
■	4	4	5	5	5	3	4

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: Good correlation exists between the weak moderate ratings for Desired Mgmt. Class and reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ■ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Workshop Rating Unit: #15 Dolores Mesa

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES	Rating Units	Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
HIGH	HP	2
MED.	MP	3
LOW	LP	6
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐ High Ratings	2	1	1	2	2	2	1
▒ Moderate Ratings	3	1	1	–	–	–	1
▓ Low Ratings	6	7	8	7	8	5	6

Final Rating: Low

Rationale: Consistently low ratings are indicated overall for the Dolores Mesa.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

Rating Units	Landscape Values		Desired Mgmt. Class	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
Workshop Rating Unit: #16 Lower Dolores River		P		☐ 2	☐ –	☐ –	☐ –	☐ 1	☐ –	☐ –
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	HIGH	HP	1		▒ –					
	MED.	MP	4		▓ 8	▒ 3	▒ 3		▒ 3	▒ 3
	LOW	LP	5	▒ 4		▓ 6	▓ 5	▒ 2	▓ 3	▓ 4
		R		▓ 4				▓ 6		

Final Rating: Low

Rationale: Low ratings overall are indicated by participants for the Lower Dolores River.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

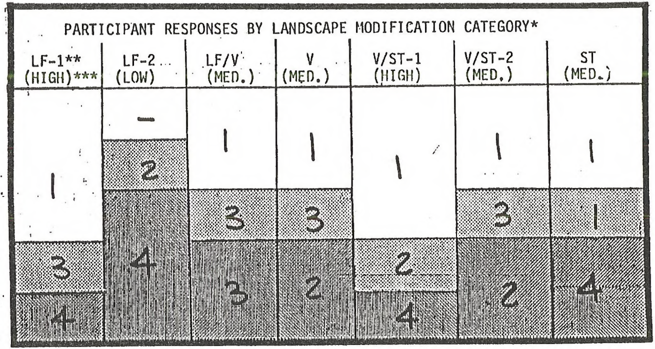
PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #17 North Rim Hills

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	1
	HP	1
MED.	MP	2
LOW	LP	4
	R	


PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The high "Low" ratings overall were resolved to "Moderate" by BLM Area personnel based on their knowledge of the area.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

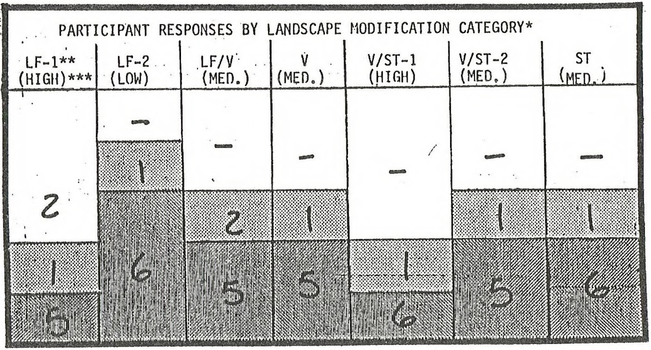
*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #18	P	
ontezuma Valley	HP	
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	MP	4
	LP	4
	R	

LANDSCAPE VALUE: HIGH (P, HP); MED. (MP); LOW (LP, R)



Final Rating: Low

Rationale: The moderate/low rating for desired level of protection were resolved to low because of the strength of the low ratings for reaction to change.

* □ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #19

otten Reservoir

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
HIGH	HP	2
MED.	MP	2
LOW	LP	5
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐ 3	☐ –	☐ –	☐ 1	☐ –	☐ 1	☐ –
▒ 3	▒ 1	▒ 3	▒ 3	▒ 4	▒ 2	▒ 3
▓ 3	▓ 7	▓ 6	▓ 3	▓ 5	▓ 5	▓ 5

Final Rating: Low

Rationale: Low concern overall is reflected in participant ratings for Totten Reservoir.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #20 ellow Jacket Canyon		
LANDSCAPE VALUES HIGH	P	2
	HP	
MED.	MP	5
LOW	LP	5
	R	
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):		

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	3	2	2	1	2	2	2
▨	2	1	1	2	1	–	1
▩	6	6	7	6	7	6	5

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The moderate to low ratings for the Yellow Jacket Canyon were resolved to moderate by Area BLM personnel based on their knowledge of the area.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

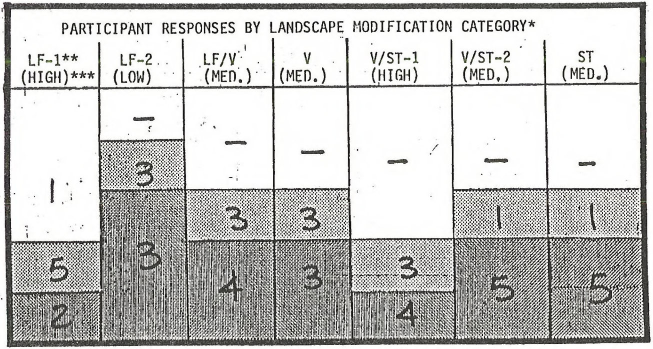
** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #21 cElmo Creek		
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):		
LANDSCAPE VALUES HIGH	P	
	HP	1
LANDSCAPE VALUES MED.	MP	3
LANDSCAPE VALUES LOW	LP	4
	R	



PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
▨	5	3	3	3	3	1	1
▩	2	3	4	3	4	5	5

Final Rating: Low

Rationale: The overall trend of participant responses indicates a low level of concern for Mc Elmo Creek.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #22

amilton Mesa

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
HIGH	P			1	–	–			
	HP	1	–	–			1	–	–
MED.	MP	2			2	1		1	1
LOW	LP	5	3	5	5	5	1	5	5
	R		4				5		

Final Rating: Low

Rationale: Consistently low ratings were given by participants for Hamilton Mesa.

* □ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units	Landscape Values		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #23 pper Yellow cket Canyon	HIGH	P	2
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):		HP	–
	MED.	MP	2
	LOW	LP	6
		R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
□	2	3	2	1	2	3	2
▨	2	–	1	3	1	–	1
▩	5	5	6	4	6	4	4

Final Rating: Low

Rationale: Although widely split, ratings for the Upper Yellow Jacket Canyon show a strong low trend overall.

* □ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units	Landscape Values		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #24 Cross Canyon	HIGH	P	1
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):		HP	1
	MED.	MP	3
	LOW	LP	6
		R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	2	2	1	1	2	3	2
▨	2	1	3	3	2	–	1
▩	6	6	6	5	6	4	5

Final Rating: LOW

Rationale: Ratings for Cross Canyon are somewhat split but clearly show a low trend.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN

Workshop Rating Unit: #25

legro Canyon

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Rating Units: Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
HIGH	HP	1
MED.	MP	2
LOW	LP	7
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	1	1	–	1	2	2	1
▒	2	1	3	2	1	–	2
▓	6	6	6	5	6	5	4

Final Rating: LOW

Rationale: Strong low trends are indicated overall for Negro Canyon.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

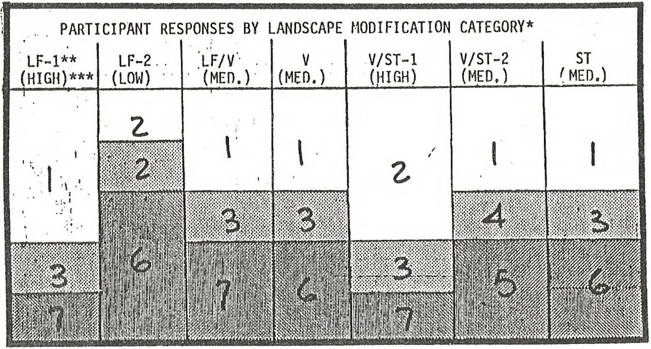
** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units			Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #26 Cajon Mesa	LANDSCAPE VALUES HIGH	P	1
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):		HP	2
	MED.	MP	3
	LOW	LP	6
		R	



PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
▒	3	2	3	3	3	4	3
▓	7	6	7	6	7	5	6

Final Rating: LOW

Rationale: Ratings show strong "Low" trends overall for Cajon Mesa.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTH.

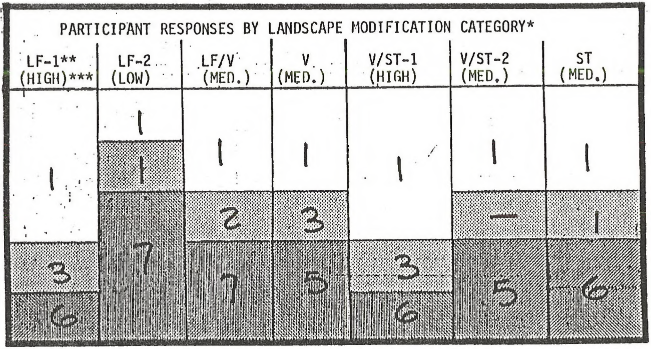
Workshop Rating Unit: #27

quaw Canyon

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES	Rating Units	Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	1
	HP	—
MED.	MP	3
LOW	LP	6
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*



	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
▨	3	1	2	3	3	—	1
▩	6	7	7	5	6	5	6

Final Rating: LOW

Rationale: Ratings are consistently "Low" for both the desired level of protection and reaction to change.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #28
lkalai Canyon

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	1
MED.	MP	1
LOW	LP	9
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	–	1	–	1	1	1	1
▒	2	–	2	–	1	–	1
▓	8	8	8	8	8	6	6

Final Rating: LOW

Rationale: Ratings for Alkalai Canyon are consistently low overall.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units			Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #29 MOUNTAIN heep Point	LANDSCAPE VALUES HIGH	P	2
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):		HP	1
	MED.	MP	2
	LOW	LP	5
		R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (HIGH)
☐	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
░	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
▓	6	5	6	4	6	3	4

Final Rating: HIGH

Rationale: Participant responses were moderate to low overall, however due to pending "scenic river" designations on a large stretch of the Dolores River, the final designation was raised to High by BLM personnel. The designations reflect scenic values determined through a study over much of the Dolores River.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ░ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units	LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
Workshop Rating Unit: #30 Sacred Mountain Valley	HIGH	P	
		HP	2
Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):	MED.	MP	4
	LOW	LP	6
		R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	1	-	1	1	1	1	-
░	4	3	2	2	2	2	3
▓	6	7	8	7	8	6	7

Final Rating: LOW

Rationale: Ratings show a clear low trend overall.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ░ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #31 Dolores River Canyon

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	1
	HP	2
MED.	MP	4
LOW	LP	4
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (HIGH)
☐	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
▒	4	2	3	2	3	2	2
▓	4	5	5	5	5	3	6

Final Rating: HIGH

Rationale: Participant responses were moderate to low overall, however, due to pending "scenic river" designations on a large stretch of the Dolores River, the final designation was raised to High by BLM personnel. The designations reflect scenic values determined Through a study over much of the Dolores River.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #32 avaquinnep Reservoir

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	1
MED.	MP	6
LOW	LP	4
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
□	1	–	–	–	1	1	–
▨	3	1	4	5	1	1	2
▩	5	7	5	3	7	4	6

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The moderate to low trends were resolved by BLM Area personnel to moderate overall based on their knowledge of the area.

* □ = High Ratings; ▨ = Moderate Ratings; ▩ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

*** Relative magnitude of landscape modification category.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY WORKSHOP DATA
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

PLANNING UNIT SACRED MTN.

Rating Units

Workshop Rating Unit: #33
and Canyon

Scenic Quality Rating Unit(s):

LANDSCAPE VALUES		Desired Mgmt. Class
HIGH	P	
	HP	1
MED.	MP	5
LOW	LP	2
	R	

PARTICIPANT RESPONSES BY LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION CATEGORY*

	LF-1** (HIGH)***	LF-2 (LOW)	LF/V (MED.)	V (MED.)	V/ST-1 (HIGH)	V/ST-2 (MED.)	ST (MED.)
☐	2	2	1	2	1	2	1
▒	2	2	2	3	3	2	2
▓	3	2	4	1	3	2	3

Final Rating: MODERATE

Rationale: The moderate to low ratings for Sand Canyon were resolved to "moderate" by BLM Area personnel based on their knowledge of the area.

* ☐ = High Ratings; ▒ = Moderate Ratings; ▓ = Low Ratings

** See Reverse side for specific types of visual change within each category.

of landscape modification category

SPECIFIC ISSUES, PROJECTS OR LANDS OF CONCERN TO YOUR GROUP OR AGENCY:

In the following space please indicate any issues or concerns your agency or group has about visual resource management in this BLM Resource Area. Specific projects, lands or issues can be addressed. Indicate on the base maps provided the location of specific lands you are concerned about. Use a code letter/word or other identifiable designation referenced in your narrative.

Participant W.C. BAUER

Date 1/25/79

I believe there will be some Visual Problems in the Sacred Mountain Zone but we Can not let this stop our Progress in growth and using our Natural resources we have to have some bad With the good.

This Valley Needs income as the Population grows. We Can't let Visual Sensitivity Stop Progress.

W.C. Bauer.

SPECIFIC ISSUES, PROJECTS OR LANDS OF CONCERN TO YOUR GROUP OR AGENCY:

In the following space please indicate any issues or concerns your agency or group has about visual resource management in this BLM Resource Area. Specific projects, lands or issues can be addressed. Indicate on the base maps provided the location of specific lands you are concerned about. Use a code letter/word or other identifiable designation referenced in your narrative.

Participant Lewis McCool

Date 1/25/79

Major concern is continued protection of Dolores River Canyon (down river from Project) from additional scenic intrusions — River is potential addition to Wild & Scenic Rivers System.

Also continued protection of potential wilderness sites in BLM lands of 5,000 acres or more.

These areas of concern include :

* Yellow Jacket Canyon and Upper YJ Canyo

* Cross Canyon

* Squaw Canyon

* Sleep Mtn. Point

* Dolores River Canyon

FINAL VISUAL SENSITIVITY LEVELS

OVERVIEW

Because of a predominance of high volume roads on the plateau coupled with low user attitudes, most of the Sacred Mountain Planning Unit resulted in a Final Visual Sensitivity rating of moderate. Where low use volume or seldom seen areas combined with low user attitudes such as most of the canyon and isolated plateau country of the southwestern portion of the Planning Unit, low Final Visual Sensitivity ratings resulted. Two notable exceptions were lower Yellow Jacket Canyon which rated moderate and Sand Canyon (Goodman Canyon) which rated high. Other areas rating high overall were the Dolores River Canyon, Narraguinnep Reservoir, Haycamp Mesa, the Jackson Gulch and Reservoir area and portions of Weber and Menefee Mountains. The remainder of the Menefee and Weber Mountains and Weber Canyon rated moderate. High ratings also resulted for a small portion of the bottom of Yellow Jacket Canyon and the West Fork Ridge west of Mancos.

DISTANCE ZONES

OVERVIEW

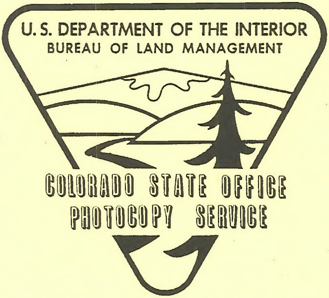
Key observer points from which Distance Zones were determined by the Sacred Mountain Planning Unit are listed in Table 13.

Most of the Planning Unit is in the Foreground-Middleground Zone due to the number of major highways crossing the area and the extensive amount of flat plateau land present.

The large number of canyons cutting sharply into this uplifted plateau have created vast unseen areas (seldom seen). Seldom Seen areas predominate in the southwestern portion of the planning unit and isolated extensions of the upland plateau. Seldom Seen areas are also found in the lower central portion of the Planning Unit in the scattered small canyons such as Stinking Springs Canyon as well as isolated areas in the Menefee and Weber Mountains in the southeastern corner of the Planning Unit.

Because of the sharp relief character of this Planning Unit nearly all of the land is either in the Foreground-Middleground of major highways or unseen (Seldom Seen). The only Background Zone lands in the Planning Unit are the raised foothills of the northern mountains as seen from U.S. Route 160.

REPRINTED
BY



Bureau of Land Management
Library
Bldg. 50, Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225

REPRINTED
BY